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FARM POPULATION AND AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 1, 1937

Vol. XI, No. 1

CONTENTS

Research Reports		Page
Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation Part-time Farming in Alabama Rural Relief Cases and Expenditures Increased Few Young People Returned to Homes in Drought Why Rural Relief Cases in Arizona Were Closed Social Organization on Muscatine Island The People of Kansas Part-time Farming Reduced Living Expenses Rural Relief in Ohio Local Government in Pennsylvania Rural Immigrants to Washington State Social Correlatives of Land Tenure Minnesota's Population Discussed	Area	1 3 4 4 5 5 6 7 7 8 8
Extension Reports		9
Divisional and State News		12
Special Items		
Parent Education The Prairie Frontier in Canada Rural Sociology Journal The American People Rural Sociology in New England Farm Family Living Group Discussion Program Conservation and Rural Life Recent Releases from the Census Bureau Ownership of Land and Number of Children in Germany		15 16 17 17 18 18 18 19 19
List of Publications		21

On August 10, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt addressed a letter to Liberty Hyde Bailey in which he said: "I shall be very glad indeed if you will consent to serve upon a commission on country life, upon which I am asking the following gentlemen to act: Prof. L. H. Bailey, New New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y., chairman; Mr. Henry Wallace, Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Iowa; President Kenyon L. Butterfield, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass.; Mr. Gifford Pinchot, United States Forest Service; Mr. Walter H. Page, editor of the World's Work, New York."

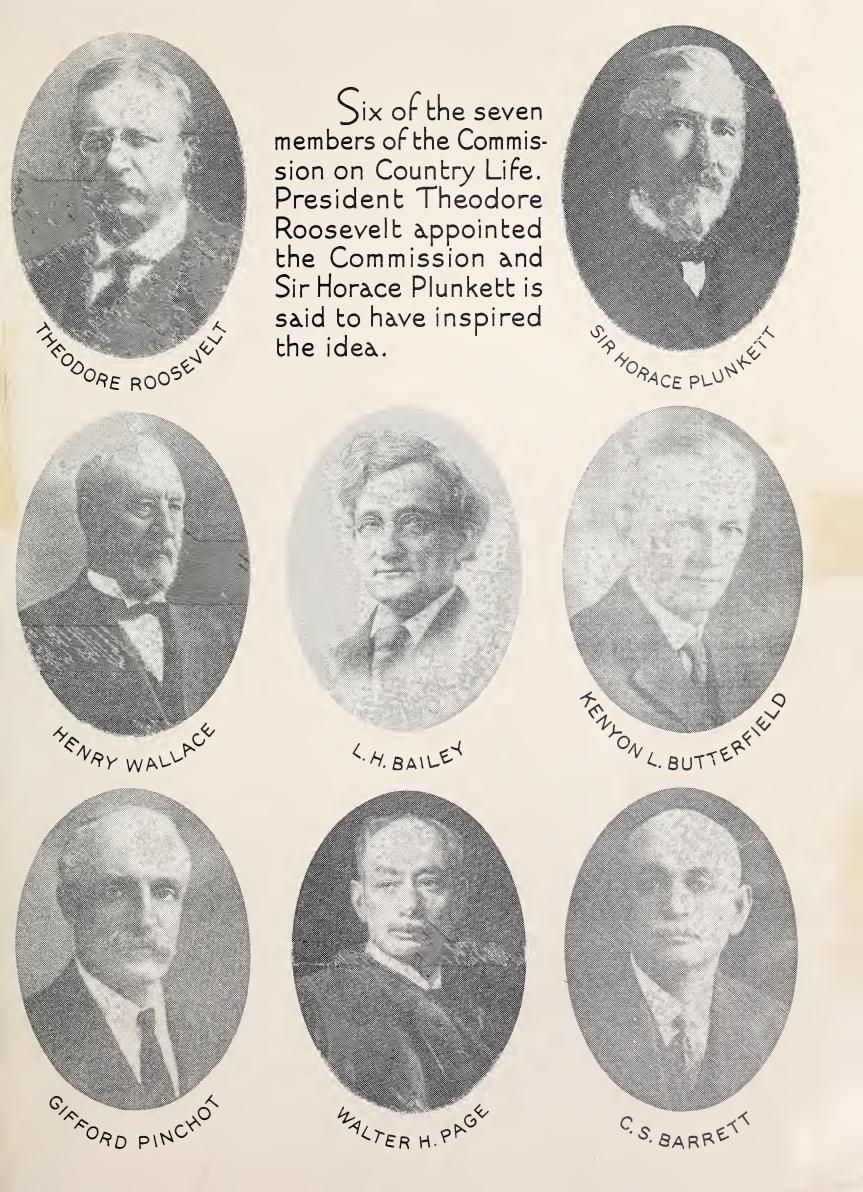
Subsequently, he named Charles S. Barrett of Georgia and William A. Beard of California as members of the Commission.

In his letter to Professor Bailey, President Roosevelt, among other things, said: "The farm grows the raw material for the food and clothing of all our citizens; it supports directly almost half of them; and nearly half the children of the United States are born and brought up on the farms. How can the life of the farm family be made less solitary, fuller of opportunity, freer from drudgery, more comfortable, happier, and more attractive? Such a result is most earnestly to be desired. How can life on the farm be kept on the highest level, and, where it is not already on that level, be so improved, dignified, and brightened as to awaken and keep alive the pride and loyalty of the farmer's boys and girls, of the farmer's wife, and of the farmer himself? can a compelling desire to live on the farm be aroused in the children that are born on the farm? All these questions are of vital importance not only to the farmer but to the whole nation."

The photograph enclosed with this issue presents a group picture of all members of the Commission, with the exception of Mr. Beard, and in addition, the pictures of President Roosevelt and Sir Horace Plunkett.

The findings presented by these men in Senate Document No. 705, 60th Congress, Second Session, constitutes an historic document. The problems which this Commission was asked to investigate are again rising to prominence in the nation's thinking as they probably have at no other time since the appointment of the Commission.

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Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation

"Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation", a report based on an enumeration of landlords and tenants on 646 plantations in seven southeastern cotton States, will be published early in January. The report was prepared by T. J. Woofter, Jr., of the Division of Social Research, of the Works Progress Administration.

The alarming increase of tenancy up to 1930, the burden of debt and exorbitant interest rates, the social effects of excessive devotion to cash crop farming, the soil exhausting traits of cotton farming, starvation incomes, and other difficulties confronting the tenant in the effort to become an independent farmer are pointed out in the study. The special efforts for relief and rehabilitation of cotton tenants are also described, emphasizing the importance of support by the Federal government in the future reconstruction of the Cotton Belt. The majority of tenants who have been on relief were judged capable of becoming self-sustaining.

The near-collapse of the cotton farmer in 1931, 1932, and 1933, when the price of cotton dropped to around six cents per pound, dramatically focussed the attention of the Nation on the necessity of rehabilitating ruined tenants.

In the early years of the depression many landlords lost their plantations through foreclosure and their tenants were set adrift, still others were unable to secure the necessary funds (amounting to about \$1,350 on the average plantation) to feed their tenants and laborers and these plantation families were also in desperate straits. Consequently, in 1933, relief rolls in the cotton areas were high in proportion to other rural areas. This burden continued to be heavy until the spring of 1934 when the program of rural rehabilitation was inaugurated with the object of removing tenants from the dole by lending them money for fertilizer, equipment, and subsistence which would enable them again to become self-supporting on small farms. The operation of the rehabilitation program, improved prices under the A.A.A., and transfer of unemployables to local agencies reduced the relief loads in cotton counties to a very low point late in 1935.

Up to 1910 there was a slow, steady disintegration of plantations into small farms and a rise of tenants into ownership. Since J910, however, the process of subdivision has about ceased, and tenancy is increasing at the expense of ownership at an alarming rate.

In 1910, 58 percent of the farms in the east cotton States were operated by tenants, and by 1930 this had grown to 64 percent. Up to 1935 the percentage remained about the same in cotton counties. Along with this general increase in tenancy there has been an important increase in white tenancy. The number of white tenants in seven southeastern cotton States increased by 150,000 from 1910 to 1930, or from 20 percent of all male farm workers to 28 percent.

One condition responsible for the plight of tenants, according to the report, is the exorbitant rates of interest. Landlords pay between 10 and 16 percent on short-term credit, and tenants pay about 37 percent for credit on subsistence advances. This drag of interest charges is one of the principal stumbling blocks in the road to independent ownership.

These unfavorable conditions caused the burden of debt to pile up. Mortgage debts increased in recent years more rapidly in the South than elsewhere. As a result foreclosures in the late 1920's and early 1930's were frequent. A large proportion of Federal feed and seed loans were made in the Southeast. Sample studies indicate that about 10 percent of the land in the Cotton Belt is held by mortgage companies, insurance companies or banks. In some counties as much as 20 percent of the land is held under foreclosure.

The one-crop system has been a precarious method of livelihood because of the boll weevil, fluctuation in foreign markets, frequent depressions in price, and increase in cotton production in new areas, the study indicates. That cotton is a soil exhausting crop and intensifies erosion is suggested by the fact that 10 percent of the lands scheduled for retirement under the first submarginal land program were cotton lands.

Population pressure is also cited as a major feature of maladjustment in the Cotton Belt. Birth rates are high as the need for family labor puts a premium on large families. Up to 1930 southern farms were exporting a quarter of a million people a year to other sections. In the South there remained more men than jobs, and plantations could get labor almost at their own terms. This pressure of population became more ominous when the demand for cotton began to shrink, and today this is contributing to the insecure position of tenants. Youth maturing on cotton farms have found increasing difficulties in entering commercial agriculture and a diminishing demand for their labor in cities.

Rural rehabilitation, thus far, has been largely confined to tenants previously on the relief rolls, and has in the main restricted its program to provision of working capital and subsistence supplies rather than selling of land. Rehabilitation loans were necessary for tenants since the Farm Credit Administration loans are made only on types of security which the tenant is unable to furnish. Farmers borrowing from the Rehabilitation Corporations and, more recently, from the Resettlement Administration, not only receive lower rates of interest than the charges for commercial loans but also receive instruction in methods of improved cultivation and increased production of food crops and livestock products.

The Bankhead-Jones Bill, proposed at the last session of Congress. would go further and start tenants of proved ability on the road to ownership regardless of their past relief record. Thus, the rehabilitation program, as well as that proposed under the Bankhead-Jones Bill, is said to be aimed at two of the fundamental weaknesses of cotton economy which are emphasized in the report: namely, lack of production for home use, and subjection of tenants to staggering rates of interest.

> "Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation". by T. J. Woofter, Jr., Res. Monograph V, Div. of Social Research, W. P. A.

Part-Time Farming in Alabama

Part-time farming increased considerably in the Coal and Iron Subregion of Alabama during the depression years, 1929-1934. Many workers in this area had been farming part-time for many years, but of the 204 white and 124 Negro workers surveyed, more than half had taken up part-time farming since 1928 to supplement their reduced earnings.

The survey of part-time farmers was taken in 1934, an unstable year, but fairly typical of the depression period of the iron and steel industry. Since there was considerable under-employment, white farmers were able to spend an average of 4 hours a day working on their farms and Negro heads an average of 6 hours without interfering with their regular employment.

White family incomes from industrial employment in this region are estimated to have fallen 46 percent from 1929 to 1934, from \$1,577 to \$848. Negro incomes were reduced more than one-half, since most of the Negroes were unskilled workers and were laid off first.

Of the 328 workers surveyed who were already doing part-time farming, all but 7 had gardens which provided fresh vegetables for from 5 to 8 months of each year and reduced the family grocery bills from \$5 to \$10 for each of the summer months. Many of the white families did some canning and storing of vegetables.

Dairy, poultry, and pork products were produced on almost half of the farms and not only increased the quality of the food supply but provided a small cash income.

A typical white part-time farmer with garden and cow produced farm products with an estimated value to the family of \$316, while a Negro part-time farmer with a poultry flock and garden produced products with a value of \$123. Considering that the farm expenses for the white farmers, exclusive of rent and taxes, averaged only \$73 and for the Negroes, \$15, the contribution of the part-time farming enterprise forms an important part of the family living. And as important as the actual money contribution is the increased value to health that such an enterprise offers.

The steel companies of this region have long encouraged the cultivation of gardens and have provided, in most cases, company—owned plots of ground near the workers' houses, often plowed by the company at a slight cost, and in addition seeds and fertilizer.

"Combined Farming-Industrial Employment in the Coal and Iron Subregion of Alabama," W. W. Troxell, L. S. Cottrell, Jr., A. D. Edwards, and R. H. Allen. Prelim. Rpt., Res. Bull. J-4, Resettlement Adm., Nov. 1936.

Rural Relief Cases and Expenditures Increased During July and August

Aggregate expenditures for rural and town relief increased 14 percent during July and August, according to the reports from 385 selected areas in 36 States. The rise in the amount of relief was accompanied by an increase of 10 percent in the number of families aided. Expansion in rural and town relief loads between July and August was reported in 23 States.

Assistance to the social security classes increased conspicuously in relative importance since January, and by August more than 58 percent of the total relief was for this group. In comparison, 35 percent of the total amount was for general public assistance, 6 percent for Resettlement emergency grants; and less than 1 percent for private assistance. Between July and August there was a sharp increase in assistance provided through Resettlement emergency grants.

The trend in relief expenditures for January through August 1936, in 57 selected drought counties located in 9 States most heavily damaged by the drought, is specifically illustrated.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Div. of Social Research, W. P. A., January-June 1936, June-July 1936, and July-August 1936.

Few Young People Returned to Homes in Drought Area

In the drought area of South Dakota the number of young persons who had left their homes before January, 1929 and who had returned and were living at home on January 1, 1935, is very small according to preliminary returns from the Survey of Rural Population Mobility conducted there. In Haakon County, South Dakota, 615 children had left their homes before 1929; half of them having gone to some other county and more than one-fourth to a city. Six years later only 13 had returned to their homes. Not only was there virtually no migration back to the homes of these persons, but those persons who moved showed a slight tendency toward further dispersion of this group during the depression years. There was a slight decrease in the number living in cities, but these persons went to villages rather than to an open country residence. Offsetting the 13 who returned to their homes were 278 persons who left their homes to go elsewhere between 1929 and 1935. Persons who were in their early twenties at the time of the survey contributed most to the migration away from this county.

Results in 5 other South Dakota counties appear to substantiate these results; showing a very small migration back to the parental home and a continued dispersion of persons who had left their homes before 1929. There was some evidence, however, of a "backing up" of rural youth in these areas during the depression years, i.e. a smaller proportion of the younger people left home during recent years than was true of persons at comparable ages six years previously.

Why Rural Relief Cases in Arizona were Closed

closed between July 1, 1935, and December of that year. Of these, 41 percent were due to Works Program employment and 18 percent due to other employment. Increased earnings accounted for 12 percent, but increases in crop prices or income from crops marketed was responsible for less than 1 percent. The receipt of outside aid was reported in 5 percent of the cases; administrative rulings, in 11 percent and moving away of a client or his failure to report, in 10 percent.

"Reasons for Closing 3,300 Rural Relief Cases in Arizona, July 1, 1935, through December 31, 1935", Agri. Sta., Univ. of Ariz., October, 1936.

Social Organization on Muscatine Island (Iowa)

This study was an attempt to find some of the relationships between land utilization and social organization. Poor land-use adjustment in the early history of the area studied was largely responsible for the lack of success of early settlers. New adjustments in type of farming following the Civil War led to completion of settlement and an era of social organization and relative prosperity lasting until the beginning of the present century. Serious attacks of plant diseases made farming unprofitable, while social organizations became formalized, and no local educational agency was equipped to solve the problems at hand. In the meantime, the development of the automobile and good roads was making other adaptations increasingly necessary.

The Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station contributed to the systematic solution of the problems of agricultural production. In the meantime, formal social groups, with the exception of church groups, had become completely disorganized. Recently church social groups have extended their activities and a number of new organizations for young people have been formed. Marketing problems remain to be solved, but producers have neither the experience in organization nor the leader-follower relationships necessary for the present success in cooperative marketing organization. In this localized area, the solution of land-use adjustment problems and production problems has not of itself led to the solution of problems connected with social organization.

"Social Organization and Land Utilization on Muscatine Island", Ray E. Wakeley and J. Edwin Losey, Bull. No. 352, Iowa Agri. Exp. Sta., December, 1936.

The People of Kansas

"The People of Kansas", a demographic and sociological study of the State by Carroll D. Clark and Roy L. Roberts, is the type of monograph which, if repeated for each state in the Union, would provide an exceedingly valuable picture of the original settlement, historic development, present population, and social problems of the various sections of the Nation. The monograph is presented in fourteen chapters with a rather elaborate appendix. It analyzes the population and social problems of Kansas in terms of the ecology and historic development and their present status.

The first seven chapters relate population factors to such other

factors as climate, rainfall, homestead experience, and industrial development. Chapter 2, on "Land and Climate", is the type of thing that should be done for every State and region of the Nation. Chapter 3, on the "Process of Settlement", is of especial value at a time when the western area of the State, part of the so-called "Dust Bowl", is in the throes of another major population cycle such as occurred in this same area in the decade of the nineties.

Chapter 4, on the "Analysis of Growth and Distribution", of population is exceedingly interesting when related to the climatological data presented elsewhere in the monograph. Chapter 5, on "Racial and National Origins of Kansas Population", is of less specific interest, but is essential to the complete story of the document. Chapter 6, on "Changes in Interstate Migrations", is one of the most interesting chapters of the book because the State of Kansas, like other Great Plains States, has always been an area of great population turnover. Chapter 7, on the "Trend of Urban Growth", is of interest because Kansas is primarily a rural State, and this chapter shows that urban growth has been pretty well confined to certain sections of the State and has thus altered the percent distribution of population within various sections of the State during the last few decades.

The next three chapters have to do with typical population data: Changing Age and Sex Composition; Birth rates, Death rates, and Trend of Natural Increase; and The Family and Marital Condition.

The last four chapters are mainly interpretive and to some extent prescriptive, dealing with: Agricultural and Rural Adjustment; What is Happening to the Small Town; Other Socio-Economic Factors; and Summary and Present Outlook.

The body of the book has 93 tables and 44 figures; the appendix contains 60 additional tables, many of them having detailed data presented on a county basis from the period of 1860 to 1930, others presenting data on the three sub-regions of the State, and still others on the topics of the fourteen chapters of the monograph.

"The People of Kansas", by Carroll D. Clark and Roy L. Roberts, Kansas State Planning Board, 261 pages, Topeka, Kansas, 1936.

Reduced Living Expenditures Through Part-Time Farming

On the basis of 147 part-time farms, those families having about the same standard of living in the country as they had had in the city, are living for \$100 less per year at the present time. The annual savings by moving to the country range as high as \$1,050 in some cases depending, of course, on the standard of living maintained. Savings in the country were chiefly on food products, clothing, amusements, kind of fuel, and less need of medical attention, and they increased with larger numbers of livestock, increased acreage and larger families.

lights, at \$8 more per year in the country than in the city, the annual saving by doing without electricity being \$22; 51 percent had running water, at \$5 per year in the country; 30 percent had sewage disposal plants at a negligible cost; and 37 percent had telephones (party lines) operators doing without telephones saving \$36 per year thereby.

"An Economic Study of Part-Time Farming in the Elmira and Albany Areas of New York, 1932 and 1933", Kenneth Hood, Bull. No. 647, Cornell Univ. Agri. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, 1936.

Rural Relief in Ohio

Between June and November 1935, the number of rural relief cases in Ohio decreased more rapidly than the number of all relief cases; in June, 23 percent of all relief cases in the State were rural, in November, only 13 percent were rural. About 32 percent of the average case load in the ten sample counties remained on the relief rolls continuously, but the number of such continuous cases was relatively smaller in good agricultural sections or where there was some non-agricultural industry such as coal mining or pottery, tile and clay manufacturing. In June, 17.2 percent of all heads of households on relief were farm operators; this figure increased 19.4 percent in November.

Of a total of 3,162 rural relief cases on December 1, 1935, 58 percent were closed because of administrative policy and 80 percent of this number were accepted by a local county relief agency (a continuation of the F.E.R.A. unit with local and State funds), 7.5 percent having gone into private employment, and 11 percent being of unknown disposition or having had no disposition at all.

"The Trend of Rural Relief in Ten Ohio Counties, June 1 to December 1, 1935", C. E. Lively and C. L. Folse, Bull. No. 96, Ohio Agri. Exp. Sta., Nov. 1936.

Local Government in Pennsylvania

A survey made in 1935 of sixty-one first-class townships in Pennsylvania is described in a publication entitled, "The First Class Township in Pennsylvania", by Philip B. Willauer. The first-class township is a type of local government designed for part-rural and part-urban areas adjacent to the larger urban areas of the State.

It was found that a new type of local government for first-class townships is definitely needed and that the present legislation creating them is too elastic and flexible to carry out its original objective. The first real need, therefore, in the reorganization of these units is a restrictive basis of classification of first-class townships. In order to intelligently accomplish this, there must also be homogeneity within this particular class of local government.

The study was made under the auspices of the University of

Pennsylvania with the idea of providing "a factual basis for the consideration of proposals looking toward the reorganization of local government", and was conducted in connection with a general survey of local government in Pennsylvania, constituting part of a volume called Pennsylvania Local Government Survey, published by the American Philosophical Society.

Rural Immigrants to Washington State

This study deals with characteristics of rural households which settled in the State of Washington between September 1, 1932, and February 1, 1936, and is based on questionnaires sent to rural school teachers. Schedules covering 30 percent of the rural school districts in the State were returned. (School districts covering both open country and village districts in towns with less than 2,500 population were included.)

These schedules indicated the location and characteristics of 467 households which moved to Washington from other States. The author estimates that during the period covered a minimum of 1,600 families settled in rural districts in the State of Washington. Forty-five percent of them engaged in agriculture, and 11.6 percent were either on W. P. A. or were unemployed at the time when the schedule was filled. Unemployment was the chief reason given for having left their previous State although drought ranked second. Fifteen percent of the immigrants were considered successful, 57.2 percent were considered average, 15.8 percent were considered unsuccessful. The remaining group was not classified.

"Rural Immigrants to Washington State, 1932-1936", Paul H. Landis, Rural Sociology Series in Population No. 2, (mim.) Washington Agri. Exp. Sta. in cooperation with the Div. of Social Research, W.P.A.

Social Correlatives of Land Tenure

At the present time, nearly 400 of the schedules for tabulation in this study have been received. Field work has been completed in Wilson and Union Counties, North Carolina, in the Cotton Belt; and in Mercer County, Ohio, and Gentry County, Missouri, in the Corn Belt. It is now under way in Greenville County, South Carolina; Hale County, Alabama; Crockett County, Tennessee; Jefferson County, Arkansas; Red River Parish, Louisiana; and Nacogdoches County, Texas, in the Cotton Belt; Jones County, Iowa, and McLean County, Illinois, in the Corn Belt.

Minnesota's Population Discussed

The population of Minnesota increased over 2,000,000 from 1860 to 1930. Its early growth was due largely to the influx of foreign-born population and persons born in the U.S. outside of Minnesota, these two categories comprising more than 80 percent of the population in 1860.

The foreign-born population is predominantly Scandinavian, with Germanic and Slavic peoples ranking second and third. Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maine have furnished most of the American-born migrants to Minnesota. Native-born Minnesotans have migrated chiefly to the Pacific, West North Central (except Minnesota), and East North Central states.

In 1860, the rural elements of the population constituted about 90 percent of the total, reaching the greatest numerical strength in 1920 when the rural population was only 55.9 percent of the total. In the decade following 1920, there was an actual decrease of 2.2 percent in the rural population, making the urban population nearly as large as the rural (49 percent and 51 percent respectively). The authors state this conclusion: "the urban population is still increasing, but at a decreasing rate; the rural population increased to 1920, since when it declined slightly; and the rural decrease in the last decade was most noticeable in the villages."

The rural farm element in 1930 had a disproportionately large number of the population in the age groups under 20 years, while the villages contained a disproportionately large number 65 years of age and over. The preponderance of urban population was within the age group of 20-55 years of age. There have always been more males than females in the population, but the trend is now toward a balancing of the ratio.

The average size of families has steadily decreased from almost 6 in 1850 to 3.89 in 1930. The median size for the farm group is 4.16 and for village, 3.14. Minnesota's birth rate has been declining since 1915 when it was 24.7; in 1932, it was only 17.9. The death rate, on the other hand, has remained almost static since 1910, at 10 per thousand. "From 1920 to 1930, births exceeded deaths by 287,217, yet the state's population increased by but 176,828. showing that a net migration of 110,389 from the state occurred."

"Population Trends in Minn sota",
R. W. Murchie and M. E. Jarchow,
Bull. No. 327, Univ. of Minn. Agri.
Exp. Sta., May 1936. (29 tables,
54 figures, 824 additional tables
in Appendix.)

EXTENSION REPORTS

Discussion Group Material Available

The Extension Service, with the AAA cooperating, has made available during December a series of 14-page pamphlets designed for use in

assisting rural discussion groups in 1936-1937. Each of these contains a bibliography of material pertinent to the subject matter treated. (For a list of topics treated, see "Farm Population and Rural Life Activities" for October 1, 1936.)

There is also another set of pamphlets called Discussion Series A and B, Leaflets Nos. 1 and 2 of which have been released thus far, entitled respectively "What Is the Chief Cause of the Farm Depression?" and "Do Farmers Want the Federal Government to Help Them Deal with Farm Problems?" There are to be twelve other leaflets released in each series for the year, and these also are designed for rural discussion groups. Series A is for the members of the group as a ground work for discussion, and each leaflet contains a bibliography on the subject. Series B deals with the same topics, betting the same titles as those in Series A, but goes into greater detail, Lesigned for use by the leaders or chairmen of the discussion groups and members who are interested in a more extensive treatment of a subject.

New Objectives for Extension

According to an article entitled, "Should There Be New Objectives in Extension?" by C. B. Smith, Assistant Director, Extension Service, in the November issue of "Rural America", the need of Extension is not new objectives but rather new emphasis on the old objectives which are still sound, together with coordinated effort throughout the country and forward-looking planning of national scope. To quote Mr. Smith:

"The emphasis should be placed still more largely on economic information, and applied economics, national planning, money and credit. The farmer should have his fair share of the Nation's income, in order that he may build a home and educate his family and share in the cultural and intellectual life of the Nation......We will stress, in the future even more than in the past, the recreational, social and cultural life of rural people.......We have moved on and are doing things in a larger and more aggressive way an will continue to do so. Our original objectives, however—efficiency in agriculture, increased net income, the making of satisfying homes, the development of men and women, abundant living—all are likely to remain our objectives in Extension work for a long time to come."

Dr. Baker Lectures in the West

Dr. O. E. Baker is planning a rather extensive trip in January in behalf of the Extension Service. After addressing the Rural Sociology Section of the American Sociological Society in Chicago on December 28, on the topic, "The Effect of Recent Public Policies on Future Population Prospect", he will travel to Arizona, California, Utah, Washington, Montana, New Mexico, and Colorado. He will address the Agricultural Extension Conferences in these states on "Commercial Agriculture and the Concentration of Farm Ownership in the Cities"; "The Population Prospect

and Some Agricultural Implications"; "The Conservation of the Human Resources". Discussions will also be held on "The Outlook for Rural Youth".

Miss Gardner Assists in Meetings of Recreational Workers

Miss Ella Gardner of the Extension Service spent three months this summer in the Central and Western States, participating in State and district conferences, camps, training schools, and annual meetings.

Some of the problems that seemed to be uppermost in the minds of the people who were visited are:

- 1. How to attain a balance between social and economic projects for young adults.
- 2. How to broaden the program of education for leisure, suited to the background and interests of rural people.
- 3. Methods of creating an awareness of the assets and liabilities of rural communities as a basis for constructive effort.
- 4. Standards of organization and program for short time camps for juniors and adults.

Some interesting experimental work in discussion is being done in the young adult program in Illinois and Wisconsin.

A discussion of community assets and liabilities in the women's camps in Nebraska brought out among other problems the difficulties arising from the great spread of taverns and poorly supervised dance halls along the highways. Ways of reaching the county officials vested with power to control the licensing of such places were considered and experiences were shared.

Extension Rural Sociology in Iowa

Extension rural sociologists appeared in every county in Iowa during the twelve months ending November 30, 1936. Each county was visited an average of three times during the year. Projects for the coming year will feature three major types of assistance:

- (1) The furnishing of rural life in formation.
- (2) Projects in county and community organization.
- (3) Projects in home community activities featuring assistance in the development of rural communities through the promotion of the cultural arts and rural life.

DIVISIONAL AND STATE NEWS

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A Decade of Organized Social Science Research at the University of Virginia

To commemorate its tenth anniversary, the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, at the University of Virginia, has recently published a booklet entitled, "A Decade of Organized Social Science Research at the University of Virginia." The booklet lists their published studies, those in manuscript for early publication, and those in progress in the social sciences under the direction of the Institute. The bulletin also briefly outlines the development of the Institute from its beginning under the auspices of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial to its present enviable position at the University of Virginia. Wilson Gee is at present Director of the Institute.

Dr. Gee is now synthesizing published materials on research methods and procedure, and writing a comprehensive volume on "Research Method and Procedure in the Social Sciences," for the general use of research workers. Dr. Leland Tate of the School of Rural Social Economics, is making a study of "The Small Towns of Virginia," showing their origin, development, present status, zones of influence, miscellaneous services, forms of government, etc. and their possibilities and limitations as places of residence and economic opportunity.

Economic and Social Survey on a Soil Erosion Project

An Economic and Social Survey covering a major soil erosion project and three smaller areas in Pennsylvania was made about a year ago. A manuscript presenting the social data for the major area has been prepared by H. J. Bonser, formerly of the Division of Rural Sociology at Pennsylvania State College. A resurvey of the major area, including both social and economic data, was started in October.

Analysis of Rehabilitation Cases in Arkansas

Dr. W. T. Wilson and Dr. W. H. Metzler of the Arkansas Experiment Station Staff have been conducting a survey of the characteristics of all rehabilitation clients in Arkansas, totaling more than 21,000 in number, as of March and April, 1935. The largest percentage of these clients were tenants whose meagre resources had been depleted by drought and depression, drought having been reported four times as often as depression as the source of their trouble. Approximately one-fourth were laborers who had lost jobs in industry or in agriculture. The clients generally had too little farm equipment and too few farm animals. Over 85 percent of them were in debt, but the average indebtedness was only \$169. Clients were younger than the average farmer, had relatively large households and a high birthrate.

Farm Labor in Arkansas

"Agricultural Labor Problems in Arkansas", Published Paper Number One of the Arkansas State Policies Committee (dealing with the tenancy and farm laborer situation in the State) has just been released for publication. It was prepared by a sub-committee headed by Dr. H. W. Blalock, Associate Professor of Rural Economics, University of Arkansas. A ten-point program to meet the situation includes: Federal assistance to enable tenants to purchase farms; a farm housing program; plans for greater meat, milk, and vegetable production for home use; a school system emphasizing vocational agriculture, home and community life; rural health clinics and health instruction; longer leases; a system of accounts to insure a more equitable division of farm income; tenants and laborers thrown out of work by labor saving machinery to be assisted in readjusting to the economic system; industrialization of the State to provide greater economic opportunity for both urban and rural citizens. (Copies of this report can be secured from John G. Pipkin, Secretary Arkansas State Policy Committee, Little Rock, Arkansas. A charge of 10 cents is made to cover cost of mailing and postage.)

Professor Kolb Returns to University of Wisconsin

Dr. J. H. Kolb, chairman of the Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin, who has been on part-time leave serving as Director of the Citizens Committee on Public Welfare in Wisconsin, will resume his full-time status at the University in February. He has been on leave since March, 1936.

Tenancy in Louisiana

A study on tenancy and labor in sugar cane production is being undertaken by the Louisiana State University Experiment Station under the direction of Harold Hoffsommer and in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The field work is to begin about January first.

Publications Available from the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life

A "Directory of Teachers Giving Courses in Rural Sociology and Rural Life" has recently been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This pamphlet was prepared under the direction of Dr. Carl C. Taylor. Copies may be obtained on request.

Copies of the publications listed below are still available on request:

Interstate Migrations Among the Native White Population as Indicated by State of Birth and State of Residence. A series of Maps as based on the Census 1870-1930. October 1934. By C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny.

Farm Taxes and Local Government in Crittenden and Livingston Counties, Kentucky. Bull. No. 355, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky, March 1936. By T. B. Manny, Bushrod W. Allin and Clinton J. Bradley.

Upper Freehold Township. A Survey of the Life, Resources, and Government of a New Jersey Rural Township with a Program for Improvement. Published by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Trenton, New Jersey, September 1935.

The Outlook for Rural Youth. By O. E. Baker, September 1935. Mimeograph.

Some Attempts to Change Rural Life. By Charles P. Loomis, March 1935. I. German. II. Russian.

Village Study Completed

The third survey of 140 village-centered rural communities, which were surveyed under the auspices of the Institute of Social and Religious Research in 1924 and in 1930 under President Hoover's Commission on Rural Social Trends in cooperation with the Institute, was completed and released to the press in January. This third survey was a joint project of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Council for Research in the Social Sciences of Columbia University. It was carried on under the direction of Edmund deS. Brunner and Irving Lorge.

The current survey of these village-centered agricultural communities takes the villages through the period of the depression and reports the trends since 1930.

New features of this study include an analysis of the banking situation and a study on relief based on the case records of every relief case in all but seven of the communities. This data was secured through the cooperation of the rural research unit of the Works Progress Administration.

Rural Zoning Ordinances in Wisconsin

"Relocation without rural zoning is a job never done. Rural zoning without relocation is a job half done. Rural zoning followed by relocation will make both a success."

As a result of county-wide rural zoning ordinances enacted in 23 northern and central Wisconsin counties in the past four years, more than 5,000,000 acres of land (chiefly tax delinquent and nonagricultural) will be devoted to forestry, recreation, game management, water conservation, and special industrial uses. Definite procedures have been outlined,

showing the proper steps to follow to develop a county zoning ordinance from county board action and county-wide hearings to approval by the various town boards. Then follows the important factor of administration and enforcement of the approved ordinance, which is the responsibility of county officers and local residents.

"Rural Zoning Ordinances in Wisconsin," by W. A. Rowlands and F. B. Trenk, Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 281, July 1936.

Division Members Present Papers

Dr. Carl C. Taylor and Dr. O. E. Baker were among the speakers at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Society held in Chicago, December 28-30. Dr. Taylor's paper was entitled, "Social Aspects of Land Adjustment Problems" and Dr. Baker's subject was, "Effect of Recent Public Policies on Future Population." Mrs. Marie Jasny, Collaborator in the Division, discussed at length a paper entitled, "Recent Changes in German Rural Life", given by John B. Holt, formerly a Collaborator in the Division of Farm Population.

SPECIAL ITEMS

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Parent Education

At the biennial conference of the National Council of Parent Education, held in Chicago on November 11, Dr. Carl C. Taylor discussed "The Contribution of Sociology to the Field of Parent Education," in which he stated that for many years sociology's major task has been to study the family, of which the parent is automatically a part, and he urged that sociologists make their science more practical in its application of knowledge to urgent problems. While sociology can claim no monopoly in the field of parent education, it has a vital part to play in training, directly or indirectly, for parenthood "because homes and families are social groups and because social groups——their structure, functions, and relationships——constitute the basic phenomena with which sociology deals."

Sociology and social psychology have three primary contributions to make to the field of parent education, namely: (1) understanding of the nature of the family as a social institution and a primary group, (2) understanding of how personality is formed, and (3) understanding of internal and external family relations.

The family is both a social institution and a primary group; in any social institution, the most important person is the entrepreneur, and in the family, the parents are the entrepreneurs. Hence, the importance of training for intelligent parenthood. A primary group, however, is guided in its behavior by what might be called unconscious learning; in other words, what we learn when we don't know we're learning, on the playground, in the gang, and in the family itself. Primary groups develop such attitudes or ideals as loyalty, truth, service, kindness, lawfulness, and freedom, and "the rules of custom which apply in the neighborhood, gang, and playground, and the love and zest for participation in these intimate, face—to—face groups alone will develop the types of personalities that will make it second nature for men and women to be intelligent parents."

Dr. Howard W. Beers of Rutgers University also appeared on the program of this conference giving two papers entitled, "Portraits of Family Life and Relationships in Typical American Culture Groups; Farm Families of Central New York," and "Education for Family Living in Rural Areas." These talks are reprinted in a pamphlet, RS21, issued by the Extension Service of the New Jersey State College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University.

Dr. Beers points out, in the first paper, that the farm family is still a highly integrated, self-sufficient unit, and the farm is still considered a "community" enterprise by all members of the family who participate in the discussion of matters pertaining to it, particularly business matters. Much of the leisure time of the farm family is spent at home. All members of the family group are pretty much on an equal footing; in other words, it is not a patriarchal type of family organization with the husband dominating the group. However, it is this very integration and solidarity to which many people object, believing that it tends to develop pathological relationships within the group due to its isolation, a viewpoint which Dr. Beers finds no evidence to support. The natural apprenticeship of farm boys, which is impossible in urban living, is not considered unwholesome. There is still much visiting among other families, particularly to "kinfolks". Local leadership in rural communities is developed without family life suffering as a result. While this family integration may be influenced considerably by the impact of a rapidly changing outer world, familism is not declining at the present time, but merely changing.

The Prairie Frontier in Canada

The material for this book was collected by means of questionnaires embracing life histories of the farmers, detailed statements of income, expenditures, and indebtedness during the years of the survey—the summers of 1970 and 1931. The book deals with: the development of agriculture, trends in agricultural production, present utilization of land, ranching, the prairie provinces, investment in farms, land tenure, and nine specific areas which are farming districts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Appendix A is entitled, "Trends in Farm Power and Their Influence on Agricultural Development"; Appendix B is called, "Efficiency of Power Units Under Actual Farm Conditions."

Agricultural Progress on the Prairie Frontier, by R. W. Murchie, assisted by Wm. Allen and J. F. Booth (recently released) is Volume V in "Canadian Frontiers of Settlement" series.

Rural Sociology Journal

The December issue of "Rural Sociology" includes the following articles:

In addition, there are Book Reviews, a list of Books Received, News Notes and Announcements.

The American People

The papers prepared for the annual meeting of the Population Association of America constituted the November issue of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science under the title, "The American People." Among these papers, the following are of particular interest to students of farm population:

Population Growth and ForecastsLowell J. Reed			
Population Estimates in Postcensal Years			
Measures of Quality in the Study of PopulationFrederick Osborn			
Agricultural Population in Relation to			
Agricultural Resources			
Nutrition and Agricultural PolicyWarren C. Waite and John D. Black			
The Distribution of Population			
Rural and Urban Distribution of the			
Population in the United States0. E. Baker			
Migration, Reproduction, and			
Population Adjustment			
Value of the Population Census			
for ResearchLeon E. Truesdell			
Sources of Population DataFrederick F. Stephan			

Rural Sociology in New England

Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman of Harvard University, who addressed the New England Research Council on November 5 on the subject, "Rural Sociology in New England," rebuked rural sociologists for not adapting their studies to the real problems of New England, and for not taking greater advantage of the scientific research opportunities offered by the villages and communities in the rural districts of New England. There are the villages already developed, widespread urbanization having since 1890 provided the social institutions and advantages which are only now beginning to be found in the rural districts of many sections of the country. He may therefore study conditions in New England from a long-time perspective.

In New England the rural sociologist will find carefully kept records of the development of the villages, in which is valuable historical experience of their people and problems. He will be further aided by an academic manner or attitude on the part of the New Englanders themselves, because they too are interested in the social and economic problems which they must face now and in the future as they have faced them in the past, and they will be grateful for the assistance of rural sociology.

Farm Family Living

The Agricultural Outlook Charts for 1937 were released in November by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. There is included among them one bulletin, issued jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of Home Economics, entitled "Farm Family Living and Summaries" which contains data, charts, and tables on: Income Available to Farm Families, Prices Paid for Goods Purchased for Farm Family Living, and Consumption of Farm Families. The last-mentioned is comprised of the following: living expenditures of farm families in 12 States, 1935; summary of Illinois home account records, 1932-35; expenditures for specified items of farm family living, 1920-35; farm family diets, 1914-34; and tables showing basic data on farm family living, 1920-35.

Group Discussion Program

The four regional schools for State discussion group leaders slated for November were held under the chairmanship of Benson Y. Landis (New York), Carl F. Taeusch (Salt Lake City), Carl C. Taylor (Chicago), and Roy Hendrickson (Birmingham). Delegates from 35 States were present at these meetings, as well as regional representatives of the Extension Service, and the four field men assigned by the Program Planning Division of the A.A.A. for work on the discussion project: Paul L. Vogt, Clarence B. Loomis, A. Drummond Jones, and John M. Brewster.

All four schools were conducted on an informal basis and in a similar way, discussions being followed by comments and summaries. Various leaders who have had experience in using discussion techniques appeared at the

different schools to assist in the exchange of experiences in the States represented and to make suggestions on methods and material. Considerable time was spent in discussing the pamphlet bibliographies for this year's topics and State publications which are available as supplemental to the national topics.

Conservation and Rural Life

The Youth Section of the American Country Life Association announces the publication of a Study Outline entitled "Conservation and Rural Life." "This syllabus is intended as a guide for study to stimulate interest in group discussion on certain phases of rural life in respect to the conservation movement An effort has been made to include points which are debatable and the reader is urged to explore as many angles as possible for bases to his opinions . . . The statements are supplemented by a limited number of the most pertinent references The outline is directed toward the 1937 national meeting of the Youth Section, A. C. L. A. which will be held at Manhattan, Kansas."

Copies may be secured from E. L. Kirkpatrick (co-author with Agnes M. Boynton), University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Recent Releases from the Census Bureau

The Division of Vital Statistics in the Bureau of the Census has just released the following information: "In 1935 there were 2,155,105 births and 1,392,752 deaths in the United States. The birth rate was 16.9 and the death rate 10.9 per 1,000 estimated population."

The second series of State bulletins will be available for distribution in January in completed form as Vol. II of the 1935 Census of Agriculture. This volume also contains a United States Summary. A third and final volume, entitled "Statistics by Subjects", is now in prepara-

Nearly all items contained in Volumes I and II, except those with a cross tabulation by color and tenure, and by size of farm, have been tabulated by minor civil divisions. Photostatic copies of transcription sheets for all States may be secured upon request to the Bureau of the Census.

Ownership of Land and Number of Children in Germany

Families which own some land are larger than families which own no land according to preliminary results of the last census in Germany. Not only did farm operators and farm laborers have larger families than industrial workers, but those industrial workers who owned small gardens plots had larger families than those who did not. Childless families were twice as frequent and families with five or more children were half as frequent among industrial workers who owned no land as among those who owned some land. Among agricultural workers, childless families were

seventy percent more frequent, and families with five or more children sixty percent less frequent, among those who owned no land as among those who owned some land. Farm operators had larger families than any other occupational group. Nearly one out of each three families of farm operators had five or more children and only one in ten was childless. Among families of industrial workers owning no land the situation was almost exactly reversed; one of each ten families had five or more children and one family out of each four was childless.

In general, among farm operators the size of the family increased as the size of the land holdings increased, except that operators of 250 acres or over had a smaller proportion of large families and more childless families than farm operators generally.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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Federal

The American Institute of Cooperation, Washington, D. C., has recently released the collection of papers and pamphlets comprising their twelfth annual Summer Session, held this year at the University of Illinois Urbana, from June 15 to 19. This publication is entitled American Cooperation 1936.

"Cooperation in Agriculture", compiled by C. Gardner, Farm Credit Administration, Coop. Div. Bull. No. 4, 1936.

"Statistics of Farmers' Cooperative Business Organizations, 1920-1935", by R. H. Elsworth, Farm Credit Administration, Coop. Div., Bull. No. 6, 1936.

"Membership, Financial, and Operating Status of Cooperative Country Elevators in Kansas, 1931-1934", by R. M. Green, Farm Credit Administration, Coop. Div. Misc. Rpt. No. 7, 1936.

"Organizations and Programs for Rural Young People", prepared by Barnard D. Joy, Ext. Serv. Cir. 248, Oct. 1936.

"Looking Ahead on Agricultural Policy", released by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, AAA, Soil Conservation Service, and Resettlement Administration, December 1936.

"Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation", by T. J. Woofter Jr., Research Monograph V, Div. of Social Research, WPA, Washington, D.C.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Div. of Social Research, WPA, Jan.-June 1936, June-July 1936, and July-August, 1936.

State

Alabama

"Combined Farming-Industrial Employment in the Coal and Iron Subregion of Alabama", by W. W. Troxell, L. S. Cottrell, Jr., A.D. Edwards, and R. H. Allen, Prelim. Rpt., Res. Bull. J-4, Resettlement Administration, Nov. 1936.

Arizona

"Reasons for Closing 3300 Rural Relief Cases in Arizona July 1, 1935 Through December 31, 1935", Social Research Div., WPA, October 1936.

Arkansas

"Agricultural Labor Problems in Arkansas," prepared by H. W. Blalock, Published Paper No. 1, Arkansas State Policies Committee. (See Div. and State News)

"Types of Farming in Arkansas", Dan T. Gray and C. C. Randall, Ext. Bull. No. 351, Arkansas College of Agriculture, June 1936, Printed.

Colorado

"With Rural Relief in Colorado, Feb. to Nov. 1935", by Olaf F. Larson, Res. Bull. No. 1, Agr. Exp. Sta. and Rural Section, Div. of Social Research, WPA, April 1936.

"Rural Youth and Relief in Colorado", by Olaf F. Larson and John E. Wilson, Res. Bull. No. 3, Colorado Agr. Exp. Sta. and Rural Research Section, Div. of Social Research, WPA, June 1936.

Indiana

"A Basis for the Improvement of Education in Rural Monroe County, Indiana", by Henry Lester Smith and Forest Ruby Noffsinger, Bulletin of the School of Education, Vol. XII, No. 2, Indiana University, March 1936.

Iowa

"Social Organization and Land Utilization on Muscatine Island", by Ray E. Wakeley and J. Edwin Losey, Bull. No. 352, Iowa Agri. Exp. Sta., December 1936.

Kansas

The People of Kansas, by Carroll D. Clark and Roy L. Roberts, Kansas State Planning Board, October 1936.

Kentucky

"Factors in the Success of Rural Organizations", by Fred Boyd, Merton Oyler, and W. D. Nicholls, Bull. No. 364, Kentucky Agr. Exp. Sta., University of Kentucky, September 1936.

"Part-time Farming by Negroes Near Lexington, Kentucky", by Merton Oyler, W. W. Rose, and W. D. Nicholls, Bull. No. 365, Kentucky Agr. Exp. Sta., University of Kentucky, September 1936.

Minnesota

"Population Trends in Minnesota", R. W. Murchie and M. E. Jarchow, Bull. No. 327, Univ. of Minn. Agr. Exp. Sta., May 1936.

Montana

"Organization and Costs of Montana Schools", by Roland R. Renne, Bull. No. 325, Montana Agr. Exp. Sta., Bozeman, August 1936.

"Montana Land Ownership: An Analysis of the Ownership Pattern and Its Significance in Land Use Planning", By R. R. Renne, Bull. No. 322, Montana Exp. Sta., 1936. (An expansion of Bull. No. 310).

New Jersey

"Portraits of Family Life and Relationships in Typical American Culture Groups: Farm Families of Central New York" and "Education for Family Living in Rural Areas", Bull. RS-21, Ext. Serv. N. J. State College of Agriculture and Exp. Sta., Rutgers University, 1936.

New York

"An Economic Study of Land Utilization in Brcome County, New York", by T. E. LaMont, Bull. No. 642, Cornell Agri. Exp. Sta., 1936."

"An Economic Study of Land Utilization in Tioga County, New York", by P. B. Jones, Bull. No. 648, Cornell Agri. Exp. Sta., 1936.

"An Economic Study of Part-time Farming in the Elmira and Albany Areas of New York, 1932 and 1933". by Kenneth Hood, Bull. No. 647, Cornell Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, New York, 1936.

Ohio

"The Trend of Rural Relief in Ten Ohio Counties, June 1 to December 1, 1935", by C. E. Lively and C. L. Folse, Mim. Bull. No. 96, U. S. D. A. (WPA cooperating), November 1936.

Pennsylvania

"The First Class Township in Pennsylvania", by Philip B. Willauer, University of Pennsylvania, 1936.

South Dakota

"Rural Relief Population Trends in South Dakota, October 1934 to March 1935", W. F. Kumlien and Geo. W. Hill, So. Dak. Emergency Relief Administration, June 1936. Mimeographed.

Tennessee

"Rural Relief and Rehabilitation Possibilities in Houston, Overton, Henderson, Jefferson, and Williamson Counties, Tennessee", by C. E. Allred et al. (Nashville), Tenn. WPA and Exp. Sta., 1936.

"Graphic Summary of the Agricultural Situation", Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Univ. of Tenn., November 1936.

"Educational Status of Rural Relief Families in Tennessee", Allred and Raskopf, Univ. of Tenn., November 1936.

"Trade Centers in Tennessee, 1900-1930", C. E. Allred, B. H. Luebke, and J. H. Marshall, Agr. Exp. Sta., Knoxville, Tenn., July 1936. Mimeographed.

Texas

"Texas Unemployable Cases in the Rural and Town Relief Population-January 1936", L. P. Gabbard and W. C. Holley, Texas Agr. Exp. Sta., College Station, Texas, May 1936. Mimeographed.

"The Farm Operator in the Texas Rural and Town Relief Population, October 1935", C. E. Ullrich and L. P. Gabbard, Texas Agr. Exp. Sta., College Station, Texas, August 1936. Mimeographed.

Virginia

"A Decade of Organized Social Science Research at the University of Virginia", Univ. of Virginia, 1936.

"An Economic and Social Survey of Westmoreland", by James Lawrence and Basil Williams (a bulletin of 80 pages), recently published as Vol. XXI, No. 4, of the Univ. of Virginia Record, Extension Series. This is the twenty-first in the published series of Virginia county surveys prepared in the School of Rural Social Economics.

Washington

"Farmers and Villagers on Relief - Washington State, June 1935", Paul H. Landis, Agr. Exp. Sta., State College of Washington, Pullman, June 1936.

"Rural Immigrants to Washington State, 1932-1936", by Paul H. Landis, Rural Sociology Series in Population No. 2, Washington Agr. Exp. Sta., Pullman, in cooperation with the Div. of Social Research, WPA. Mimeographed.

Wisconsin

"Rural Zoning Ordinances in Wisconsin", by W. A. Rowlands and F. B. Trenk, Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 281, July 1936.

"The Rural Relief Population of Wisconsin in April, 1936", a Preliminary Report for confidential use of Wisconsin Citizens' Committee on Public Welfare, by George W. Hill, Walter Slocum, and Ronald O. Smith, November 1936.

"Rural Emergency Relief in Wisconsin, June 1935 and April 1936", by George W. Hill et al. (now being mimeographed).

"4-H Club Work in the Life of Rural Youth", a thesis submitted by Mary Eva Duthie for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Univ. of Wisconsin, October 1936. Mimeographed. Sponsored by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, 56 East Congress Street, Chicago, Illinois.

"Conservation and Rural Life", Youth Section, American Country Life Association, (An Outline for Study), E. L. Kirkpatrick and Agnes M. Boynton, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Dec. 1, 1936.

Miscellaneous

"Directory of Teachers Giving Courses in Rural Sociology and Rural Life", prepared by Carl C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Agricultural Progress on the Prairie Frontier, by R. W. Murchie, assisted by William Allen and J. F. Booth, Vol. V in the "Canadian Frontier of Settlement" series.

FARM POPULATION AND AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 1, 1937

Vol. XI, No. 2

CONTENTS	
Research Reports	<u>Page</u>
Taking Schedules in Iowa	1
Part-time Farming	2
Rural Rehabilitation Studies	4
Southeastern South Dakota Study	5
Suburbanization in Connecticut	6
Rural and Urban Youth Employment	7
Rural and Town Relief	7
Rural Relief in Illinois	. 8
Community and Neighborhood Groupings	9
Standard of Living	10
Relation of Education to Relief	10
Wisconsin Rural Youth	11
Farm Labor in the Yakima Valley	12
Old Age Assistance Research in Iowa	12
Rural Relief Changes in Wisconsin	13
Extension Reports	14
<u>Divisional and State News</u>	17
Special Items	20
Three Significant Documents	20
Tenancy	21
Civil Service Examination	23
Rural Work in China	24
Agricultural Organization in New Zealand	25
Cooperation	25
Rural Medical Service	26
Recent Statistical Releases	26
Population Index	28
Rural Sociology Journal	29
List of Publications	30

In the sudden death, March 2, of Dr. Warren H. Wilson, in New York City at the age of seventy years, rural communities in every State in the Union have lost an unusual friend; rural religion, a devoted expositor; rural social science, a brilliant teacher. Those who have known him well in public life during the past thirty years will experience a feeling of peculiar loneliness as they come together on certain occasions and note his absence.

Rural sociologists, in fact all rural social workers, may well pause a moment, and pay to Dr. Wilson's memory the tribute of recalling a few of his achievements. His was one of the first doctorates on a rural sociological thesis in the United States, if indeed not the very first, won in 1908 at Columbia University in sociology under Giddings, who, it will come to mind, sent out in his day a group of rural sociologists that have done him high honor.

Dr. Wilson so hammered the term "rural survey" into the minds of everybody with his pioneer surveys of rural counties, during the ten years after leaving Columbia University, that even now a great many people think that all rural research is in the nature of a "survey". What a great collection of fine exploratory studies these were!

When the American Country Life Association was founded, Dr. Wilson took his place among the inside supporters and did his turn as long as he was needed. He was also one of the original group that established the Rural Section of the American Sociological Society.

Between 1914 and 1923, Dr. Wilson taught rural sociology, with special reference to rural education, at Teachers' College, Columbia University. His students are now scattered the world over. In those days, colleges of agriculture were eager to date him for lectures during "Farmers' Week". He was known as the one minister who believed that the rural church, in order to prosper, must be in communities made up of prosperous farmers. So he bore down on the subject of the economics of farm life. All the while, however, Dr. Wilson kept his eye on religion and never swerved from this point of view. Though he hung to Presbyterianism like a Scotch Covenanter, he was perfectly at home with all other Protestants and both Catholics and Jews.

Dr. Wilson's books on the open country community and the country church will be read by rural scholars for a generation yet. His mental activity was electric. Touch it in public discussion, rub it a little, and you got a spark. Lucky for you if you did not get a little shock to boot. But this spark was only a flow of humor. Never was it bitter.

Who now will take Dr. Wilson's place? He must be a man who can weld together economics, sociology, religion. and with this build a structure for social justice.

Taking Schedules in Iowa

One of the field workers who took schedules for the Survey of Social Correlatives of Land Tenure in Iowa reports some of the reactions encountered among those who were interviewed.

There seemed to be no relationship between the quality of the answers given and the amount of formal education received by the interviewee. But there was a definite correlation between the economic condition of farmers and the promptness, relevancy and orderliness of the replies. Farmers who were doing well financially seemed to have most of the items asked for in the survey well in mind. Farmers who were heavily involved financially hesitated to give the information, and then gave it haltingly as though it were a very unpleasant subject. Women farm owners replied to questions as readily as men and appeared to be more interested in the purpose of the survey.

The average family was most meticulous in giving accurate ages and wanting to include the middle names of the children. Many of the informants wished to include the names of deceased children. One man gave the first name and middle name of a baby boy that had lived only a week and had been dead twenty years.

While replies to the questions were generally courteous, the prevailing attitude seemed to be, "Why this survey - why all this fuss - why study farm problems - we used to get along on the farms without all this monkey business." But less than 10 percent of those who were approached were reluctant to grant interviews. As a whole, the community felt honored in being selected for the survey.

The bitterness of the recent political campaign was reflected in the answers to those questions regarding attitudes toward the activities of various government agencies. The replies to this section of the schedule were frequently the arguments which had been used by political speakers during the campaign, given in somewhat the manner of a political speech.

Many of the farms in the area surveyed are rented on a long-term basis with a provisional renewal clause at the termination of the lease. There semed to be a relatively large number of cases where the lease ran for an indefinite period. The type of rent paid, cash or share, seemed to depend largely upon the economic status of the landlord. If the farm was free of mortgage, cash rent was usually paid, but if the farm carried a heavy mortgage, the tenant in most cases was required to pay a share of the crop and, in many cases, the landlord also held a half-interest in the livestock. The reason for this difference seemed to be that the landlords with a farm free of mortgage did not want to be bothered with marketing crops in their retirement, and in cases of a father-

son landlord-tenant relationship, the father wanted to give the son a free hand in his farm operations which he would not care to do if he were to get a share of the crops. In cases of cash rents, many leases provide for a graduated scale of payments depending upon price indexes of farm produce.

The number of cases in which the parties to farm leases are relatives is greater in this locality than the data of the survey indicate, since the survey does not recognize uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins as being relatives. The majority of the landlord-tenant associations are kept on a strictly business basis regardless of relationship. The interviewer believed that this accounts in large part for the cordial relationship between landlord and tenant which generally prevailed.

Part-time Farming

Part-time farming in the Naval Stores Subregion of Alabama and Georgia has increased considerably during the last 5 years, according to a report by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, and the Resettlement Administration. Naval stores production (turpentine and rosin) was found to be suited to combination with farming because turpentine forests are located near farm land and the work of gathering gum from which turpentine is distilled is similar to agricultural labor.

Two distinct types of part-time farmers were found in Coffee County, Georgia, where the survey was undertaken: (1) commercial farmers who worked part time in the turpentine forests, and (2) town or village workers who had taken up small-scale farming activities as a means of supplementing industrial earnings.

The commercial farmers who worked part time in the turpentine woods operated typical one or two-mule tobacco and cotton farms, averaging 41 acres of crop land. Considerable livestock was kept and most of the feed was grown. Cash farm receipts in 1934 averaged \$583 for owners and cash renters, and \$244 for share-croppers. A representative commercial farm in the open country was estimated to have contributed \$380 worth of foodstuffs and fuel to the family living.

Some possibility for further development of naval stores employment as a source of supplementary income for farmers was seen, but the extent of this development depends on a reform in present forest practices, especially management of pine forests for sustained yields and improvements in processing methods. Shifts in the industry can be expected because of the working out of trees in certain areas and the maturing of the second—growth trees in others.

Despite the recent increase in the amount of turpentine work done by farmers, the industry is still carried on chiefly by full-time workers who live in the open country near the stills with plenty of land available which might be utilized for more

extensive farming operations than most of them carry on at present. The extremely low wages and inadequate diets characteristic of these workers indicate the desirability of further farm production for home use.

The town and village part-time farmers were regular employees in the railroad shops or in miscellaneous service industries. Their part-time farms usually consisted of 1 or 2 acres of farm land, and they owned little livestock. The value of food for home consumption produced on a better-than-average part-time farm of this type was estimated at \$160.

"Combined Farming-Industrial Employment in the Naval Stores Subregion of Georgia and Alabama", W. W. Troxell, L. S. Cottrell, Jr., A. D. Edwards, and R. H. Allen. Prelimiminary Report, Resettlement Administration, Research Bull. No. J-5, November 1936.

Part-time farming has had a limited development in Sumter County, South Carolina, but it has increased considerably during the depression, according to the sixth preliminary report of part-time farming in the Southeast just published by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, and the Resettlement Administration.

While all but a few of the part-time farmers included in the field study depended on their outside employment for a major portion of their incomes, their farms made a substantial contribution to family living. Farming activities did not interfere with off-the-farm work.

Slightly less than one-third of the white part-time farmers surveyed worked in the woodworking factories in Sumter, a few in sawmills, and most of the remainder in building or service industries. About half of the Negro part-time farmers were laborers on large commercial farms, and about one-fifth were employed at unskilled jobs in the lumber and woodworking industries.

About half of the white part-time farmers had small farms, usually including 5 acres or less of crop land, with a cow, pigs, and a poultry flock, chiefly for home use. A better-than-average farm of this type produced food estimated at \$273.

The other white part-time farmers had larger farms and produced cotton and other products for sale in addition to food for home use. A typical commercial part-time farmer with 25 acres produced \$335 worth of products for home use, and sold an equal amount.

There is considerable opportunity for those already doing part-time farming, particularly the Negroes, to improve their

farming practices in such a way as to increase both the variety and amount of farm products without increasing the amount of labor. It does not seem likely, however, that employment opportunities in this subregion will increase sufficiently in the near future to enable large numbers of the unemployed relief population to become self-supporting by part-time farming. The part-time farmer, even though he may be able to produce most of the food his family requires, must have a steady cash income sufficient to cover other needs.

"Combined Farming-Industrial
Employment in the Lumber Subregion
of Alabama, Georgia, and South
Carolina", W. W. Troxell, L. S.
Cottrell, Jr., A. D. Edwards, and
R. H. Allen. Preliminary Report,
Resettlement Administration,
Research Bull. No. J-6, November 1936.

Rural Rehabilitation Studies

Low yields of feed and grain crops in Curry County, New Mexico, in 1934 left the farmer with low feed supplies and reduced farm incomes, but only a minority turned to relief agencies for aid according to a report by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration.

Rainfall from April through September in this area is seldom more than sufficient for the crops grown, and drought has caused damage 2 years out of 5 in both the row crop and grain sections. Wind erosion has caused severe damage on an area equivalent to 6 to 8 percent of the crop land and slight damage on an area equivalent to almost two-fifths of the crop land.

The chief rehabilitation need in this area is the advance of working capitol to farmers with exhausted credit. A program for control of wind erosion, replacement of machinery and livestock in extreme instances, and reduction in the number of small farms over a long-time period are also desirable.

Only 15 percent of all Curry County farmers had applied for relief in May 1935, but almost two-fifths of this number made relief applications solely to become eligible for rehabilitation and received no relief grants.

"Natural and Economic Factors Affecting Rehabilitation in the Upper South Plains of the Texas Panhandle and the High Plains of Eastern New Mexico" (as typified by Curry County, New Mexico), H. M. Pevehouse. Preliminary Report, Resettlement Administration, Research Bulletin No. K-10. December 1936.

Complete failure of all crops was not experienced in Hale County during any one year from 1930 to 1934, according to a report by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration. Little need for a rehabilitation program providing more than temporary financial assistance was seen for Hale County.

Shortage of grass on the range and short crops of sorghums and hay forced drastic livestock reduction in some parts of the area. But with a return to normal conditions, the agricultural distress occasioned by the short feed and cotton crops of 1935 would be relieved. Farmers in Hale County showed considerable resistance to unfavorable economic and agricultural conditions. The fact that emergency relief grants, feed and seed loans, and the number of farmers on relief were small in this county pointed to the financial stability of both owner operators and tenants, and indicated that the system of farming followed in this county is well founded and profitable.

Over three-fourths of the farmers reported that their 1934 incomes were equal to or greater than their operating expenses. In general, farms of over 280 acres produced more adequate incomes than did those of smaller size. Reports of the financial progress of selected farmers since starting farming in the area showed that the average increase in capital per year of farming averaged \$199.

> "Natural and Economic Factors Affecting Rural Rehabilitation on the South Plains of the Texas Panhandle" (as typified by Hale County, Texas), H. M. Pevehouse. Preliminary Report, Resettlement Administration, Research Bulletin No. K-12, December 1936.

Southeastern South Dakota Study

As a result of productive soils and stable precipitation and crop yields over a long period of time, agricultural and economic conditions in 1935 were better in southeastern South Dakota than in any other part of the State, according to a report by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration.

On June 6, 1935, when all farm relief cases were closed, only 15 percent of all Moody County farmers were still on relief, and less than 4 percent of the county's farmers had applied for rehabilitation by June 21.

In 1935, the average size of all farms in the county was 238 acres, and the 160-acre farms were the most common. The average net worth of all owner operators interviewed was estimated at \$7,890, and that of tenant operators at \$1,740. The average estimated value of equipment on the 160-acre farms was \$587, and on the 320-acre farms, \$1,145. Two-thirds of the farms of less than 281 acres were farmed with horse-drawn equipment, while more than

two-thirds of the larger farms had tractors.

"The Agricultural Situation in the
Intensive Livestock Production Area
of Southeastern South Dakota" (as
typified by Moody County, South Dakota),
H. L. Stewart. Prelim. Rpt. Res.
Bull. K-11, Resettlement Adm., December 1936.

Suburbanization in Connecticut

"Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut" is a descriptive analysis of the social adjustments taking place in an extensive movement of population into urban peripheries, as seen in a suburban area in Connecticut. Bulletin No. 212 is the first of a series of these studies and selects Windsor, a highly developed agricultural area and a typical Old New England town, to illustrate the possibilities which suburbanization offers in counteracting some of the social and economic consequences of urbanization. Schedules were obtained for 1816 households, about 90 percent of the total population.

The population of Windsor has more than doubled since 1910 and over one-third of the families have moved there since 1920. About one-half of the householders work in nearby Hartford, as do about 40 percent of all other gainfully employed persons. Most of the families are "middle-aged," "white-collar" workers, seeking the country for their home life.

The movement of city families into this area has been to some extent a back-to-the-soil movement, in that the number of migrants going into farming has increased in each five-year period since 1900, with the exception of the period 1930 to 1934 when there was a slight decrease. The proportion of the migrants going into farming, however, has declined consistently during each five-year period since 1910. Thus, whereas 50 percent of those who moved to the area during the period 1905 to 1909 do some farming, only 12 percent of those moving during the period 1930 to 1934 carry on farming activities.

Proportionately more of the newcomers are moving to the villages where there is little opportunity to farm. Today, 3 out of 4 farms in Windsor are operated on a part-time basis. Fifty-five percent of these part-time farms, or two-thirds of all farms, are operated by people whose principal occupation is not farming; most of them are from the lower income groups who have moved to Windsor and still retain their regular occupations in Hartford. This fact has given rise to some division of interest in social participation between Windsor organizations and services and those in Hartford.

Social problems have arisen in Windsor also, as a result of the difference in attitudes of the older residents, who are anxious to preserve the quiet charm of the old New England town, and the city families who wish to develop Windsor into a modern suburb. When this involves the question of taxation for modernization, the city families are also brought into conflict with the commercial farmers of the area.

> "Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut". by N. L. Whetten and E. C. Devereaux, Jr. Bull. No. 212, Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta. Storrs, Conn., October 1936.

Rural and Urban Youth Employment

A study of the extent to which the United States Employment Service reaches rural and urban youth is being undertaken by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration. For comparative purposes between 30 and 40 industrial counties and 134 rural counties have been selected. The considerable migration of youth from the country to the city makes it necessary to know what is happening in the employment field in urban centers, in order to analyze adequately the situation of rural youth. Data to be secured include age, sex, and employment characteristics of youth, and the types of industries and occupations in which they find employment.

Rural and Town Relief (Aug.-Sept. 1936 and Sept.-Oct.1936)

The ninth and tenth of a series of monthly bulletins present current statistics of public and private relief in 385 selected county and town areas of 36 States for August, September, and October 1936. The purpose of the series is to provide an indicator of month-to-month changes in the volume and cost of all types of public and private relief extended to families and single persons in the selected areas. Aggregate expenditures for the four major types of relief continued the upward trend from June, rising 7.1 percent from August to September and 12.1 percent from September to October in 385 rural and town areas in 36 States. Since January there has been a rapid upward swing in assistance to the social security classes, due largely to the increase in the number of States participating in the Social Security Program, this increase being nearly 200 percent between January and October.

Continuing an upward course from June 1936, combined relief expenditures in 57 selected drought counties in 9 Great Plains States rose 29.6 percent between September and October, the bulk of the increase being accounted for by the rise in expenditures for Resettlement emergency grants, which increased 75 percent from September to October. The number receiving grants increased 79.2 percent from September to October.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Rural Section, Div. of Social Research, W. P. A., August-September 1936, and September-October 1936.

Relief Expenditures

A bulletin will be released in the near future by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, in which estimated expenditures are combined for urban and rural relief in the United States from 1932 to 1936, computed on the basis of the Urban Relief Series of the Social Security Board and the Rural Relief Series of their own staff. Rural and urban trends were analyzed separately.

The method of computing each series was to convert each sample into an estimated United States total for the months of the fiscal year 1935-36 and to consider the average month as 100 percent. Previous and subsequent percentages of change were applied to the base amounts to construct a rural and an urban series for each type of relief reported.

Rural Relief in Illinois

Fifty-one percent of the total population of Alexander County, Illinois, where there is a high percentage of Negroes, was on relief in July 1934 and 40.4 percent in November of that year when the study was made. Sixty percent of the relief load was concentrated in the city of Cairo, but almost one-half of all rural families in the county were on relief and over 90 percent of all colored families living in rural areas were on relief.

Two-thirds of the land in Alexander County which is used for agricultural purposes is not producing properly, one-third needing better drainage and more efficient farming methods, and the other third being cut-over forest land which should be returned to forests. Relief rates were unusually high in these two areas.

Economic and social conditions in the county are very poor - only 23 percent of the business enterprises are growing and there is little possibility of increasing employment there. Housing conditions are exceptionally bad, in some precincts as high as 80 to 90 percent of the houses needing to be rebuilt; infant mortality rates are high; malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid and venereal diseases are prevalent. Inadequate diets are common; school buildings are run-down and poorly equipped, and the salary level for teachers is low. There is a high percentage of illiteracy, among both white and colored, and there is a high degree of delinquency and lawlessness among children and adults. There are few social organizations or recreational opportunities, and the only public library in the county is at Cairo.

"Some Factors Affecting Social Welfare in Rural Areas of Alexander County, Illinois, 1934", by D. E. Lindstrom of the Univ. of Ill., Agr. Exp. Station, published in January 1937 in cooperation with the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission.

Community and Neighborhood Groupings in Knott County, Kentucky

The population of Knott County, Kentucky, has grown from 5,438 in 1890 to 15,230 in 1930, due partly to the coal and gas development between 1920 and 1930. For this population, the number of organizations is as follows: 68 elementary schools and 5 consolidated high schools; 36 church groups, only 13 of which have their own meeting places, (21 meeting in school houses and 2 in private homes); 42 post offices, only 29 of which receive mail daily except Sunday. There is no newspaper in the county and only one bank. The trade areas are established principally by geographic conditions and usually follow magisterial district lines.

In 1929, the average amount of cash income per farm family was about \$500, only one-fifth of the families exceeding \$800. The value of food and use of dwelling averaged about \$480. The rapid development of the coal industry (chiefly 1920-1930) has brought about a tolerant attitude toward changes in social organization; miners submit to the wage-payer's authority in matters of work and social life. This situation has favored such experiments as: "the company doctor", group contract for hospital service, and the community church idea.

Educational leadership in the county has come almost entirely from people who are not native to the mountains, the natives themselves, however, willingly contributing lumber, labor, and moral support in return for the promise of better educational opportunities. According to the Census enumeration of persons of high school age, only about 25 percent were attending high school in 1930. Dormitory facilities were necessary to make even this attendance possible; at 4 of the high schools, these dormitories were supported by settlement school organizations and at the fifth by the community church.

Neighborhood-church groups do not conform to school district lines, but are usually of about the same area. A serious lack of transportation facilities has greatly retarded church advancement, but the 13 larger churches of the county hold weekday outdoor meetings in the summer at central points, so that members of the smaller churches may attend and take part in the services. The kinship tie is strong here in preserving social unity between remote neighborhoods and larger communities.

The boundary lines of neighborhood groups follow very closely school district lines. Within the neighborhood boundaries, kinship is not a strong factor in effecting solidarity; it operates throughout the mountain area, but without reference to specific neighborhoods.

> "Community and Neighborhood Groupings in Knott County", by Merton Oyler, Bull. No. 366, Agr. Exp. Sta., Lexington, Ky., October 1936.

Standard of Living

After deducting all farm operation expenses, it was found that owners in sample areas in Codington County, South Dakota, had a larger labor income (\$1,150) than did tenants (\$837). Tenants secured 45.1 percent of their labor income from the rent furnished and the food produced on the farm, while owners secured only 39.4 percent of their income from the same sources. owners and tenants used about 8 percent of their labor income in 1935 for clothing, while 43 percent went for food, 20 percent for shelter, and the remainder for furnishings and equipment, operating expenses, health, advancement, incidentals, and investments.

Prices for home conveniences seem generally too high for the farmer as shown by the fact that of the 180 households studied, 77 were without power washing machines, only 52 had telephones, 167 were using kerosene or gasoline lamps and only 13 were using electric lights. New conveniences seemed to be preferred to the old, as indicated by the preference of radios over telephones (73 to 52). Larger farms have always been the most profitable if one measures by the home conveniences acquired.

The average value per farm and buildings in 1935 for Codington County was \$7,572; the average value per acre of land was \$25. The median size of household was 5.2, owners having slightly fewer children under 16 and slightly more over 16 at home than (12 tables and a bibliography are included in the bultenants. letin.)

> "The Farm Family Standard of Living in Codington County, South Dakota", by Zetta E. Zankert, Standard of Living Studies, Bull. No. 1, South Dakota W.P.A. and South Dakota State College, Brookings, December 1936.

Relation of Education to Relief

White farmers with high school and college education have smaller families than do those with less schooling in each of the 15 counties studied in Tennessee. There is little relation between the size of Negro farm owner families and the education of the family head; but among Negro tenants, the better educated family heads have smaller families. Among the families studied, Negro farmers have larger families than white farmers in every educational group. The average size of family for all white and Negro heads with no schooling is 5 persons; with 8th grade education, 4.6 persons; with high school training, 3.5 persons; and with a college education, 3.2 persons.

"The value of family living obtained from the farm increases with the education of the farmer, whether the farmer-operator is an owner or tenant, white or Negro. White farm operators with

better education have more conveniences, literature, and music in the home than do farmers of little or no schooling. A higher percentage of white owners than tenants report these factors. Negro farmers have little in the way of conveniences, literature, or music."

In all counties except one, the better educated white and Negro farmers operate larger farms, have more capital invested, have larger labor incomes, and have a greater net worth than do farmers of little or no education.

"Relation of Education to Social and Economic Status of Farmers in Tennessee", by Chas. E. Allred and Benj. D. Raskopf, Monograph No. 29, Agr. Exp. Sta., Knox-ville, Tenn., March 1, 1937.

Wisconsin Rural Youth

In Wisconsin 66 percent of the farm boys, 14-20 years of age, were out of school in 1930. For all youth in this age group in Wisconsin, the percentage is 47 percent, for urban 37 percent, total rural 56 percent (farm and village).

In the 4-20 year age group, 7 out of 10 are in school; when high school is included, there are more girls than boys and more village than farm youth. A higher proportion of this younger out-of-school group is at work on farms; and apparently farm girls do not leave for the city or village before the age of 20. About 60 percent of the rural students who graduate from high school stay in rural communities and 30 percent go to the cities.

In the 20-25 year age group, three-fourths of the farm young men, living in the country in 1928, had gone into farming by 1933; and one-half of the farm young women went into homemaking, as compared with one-sixth of the village young men and one-twelfth of the village young women. Over half of the farm young women in this group go to the village or city, 40 percent as housewives, 26 percent in domestic and personal service. Most of the rest of them are with their parents or married to farmers. Farm young men who have moved to villages have gone chiefly into "trade and sales" and manufacturing and mechanics.

Marriage is directly related to the migration of young women from farms. Sixty-nine percent of the young women married to village or city men are from farms, while less than 8 percent of farmers' wives are from the village. Eighty-three percent of the village girls, however, are married to village or city men.

On the basis of 1719 out-of-school farm and village youth in the 4-20 year age group in five selected counties residing in villages or cities in 1933, it was found that unemployment was much higher among village youth than farm youth.

The rural high school has a unique opportunity and responsibility available to it. In order to draw more rural youth, a broader program must be developed, for agriculture and village occupations, a reorganization of administration is necessary, together with a revision of the tax base to support it, and better coordination between elementary and high schools.

"Wisconsin Rural Youth - Education and Occupation", by J. H. James and J. H. Kolb, Bull. No. 437, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Wis., Madison, November 1936.

Farm Labor in the Yakima Valley

The Washington Agricultural Experiment Station has just published a bulletin which deals with the farm labor problem in the Yakima Valley of central Washington, an irrigated area devoted to the production of fruits, general crops, and hops, an area where a great fluctuation in demand for labor exists, the range being from approximately 500 laborers in mid-winter to 33,000 at the peak season in September.

Part I gives the complete labor history of 341 farms for a period of one year showing the amount of labor employed per week throughout the year on the various crops produced.

Part II is a study of the social characteristics of the farm laborers, dealing with family characteristics, mobility, income, education, standard of living, and relief status of both transient and resident laborers.

Tabular and graphic materials support the text.

"Farm Labor in the Yakima Valley, Washington", by Paul H. Landis and Melvin S. Brooks, Rural Sociology Series in Farm Labor No. 1, Bull. No. 343, Wash. Agr. Exp. Sta. in cooperation with the Division of Social Research of the Federal Works Progress Administration, the Washington State Works Progress Administration, and the Washington State Department of Public Welfare, December, 1936.

Old Age Assistance Research in Iowa

Field work will be completed April first on an investigation of certain selected factors related to the status of a 33 percent sample of persons over 65 years of age in Hardin County, Iowa, November 30, 1936. The principal factors investigated are occupation, income, health, mobility, and relatives. The project is sponsored jointly by the Industrial Science Division of Iowa State College and the Iowa Old Age Assistance Commission. The work is being done by Lawrence Bee under the direction of Dr. Wakeley. The purpose of

this study is to describe the socio-economic conditions of persons 65 years of age or over, in an attempt to answer such questions as the following: What are the typical situations under which old people live; how many of these old people need assistance according to different criteria of need which may be applied; why do some need assistance while others do not; what is the comparative importance of long-time factors such as occupational background, health, etc., and of recent changes during the depression which might make aid necessary? It is expected that the preliminary analysis and manuscript will be completed by June 1, 1937.

Rural Relief Changes in Wisconsin

"Rural relief in Wisconsin is not primarily a farm problem." This statement is supported by the fact that in June 1935, only about 28 percent of the heads of rural relief households were farmers or farm hands, and by April 1936 the proportion in agricultural occupations had declined to about 18 percent. The rural relief families, instead of being abnormally large, were either small or medium in size. The reasons for a large share of these people being on relief were, in 60 percent of the cases, "loss of assets" or "loss of employment."

Only one-third of the residual relief load, in April 1935 were unemployable, and even those who were unable to work at all were not the chronic poor. Almost a third were unemployed; that is, they were out of work but were willing and able to work; another third were underemployed or actually working and earning money, such income being inadequate to support their families.

The continuation of depression factors in forcing people on the relief rolls is indicated by the fact that almost 1 out of every 3 rural households on relief in April 1936 had not received relief prior to January 1, 1935, and only about 1 out of every 6 households on relief in April 1936 had received relief continuously since 1932.

Many of the underemployed heads and still more of the unemployed, both in June and in April, were untrained workers, many of the former working on Works Progress projects. Most of the underemployed and unemployed heads were men, both in June and in April, but about half of the unemployable heads were women. The fact that practically all households having heads under 65 years of age had children made the situation especially serious in households having unemployable heads. Permanent disability was given as the main reason for unemployability of more than 6 out of each 10 heads under 65 years of age; and nearly 6 out of each 10 aged persons on relief in April were living alone.

> "Rural Relief Changes in Wisconsin", by Geo. W. Hill, Walter Slocum, and Ronald A. Smith, Stencil Bull., Feb. 1937 Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Wis. in cooperation with Div. of Social Research, W. P. A.

EXTENSION REPORTS

"Extension as a Profession" was discussed by C. B. Smith, Assistant Director of the U.S. Extension Service, in an address at the Southern Extension Conference at Houston, Texas. In describing the scope of the Service at the present time, Dr. Smith states that there are 8,200 technically trained men and women now employed (3,900 county agricultural agents and assistant agents, 1,900 home demonstration agents, 327 county 4-H Club agents, 1,451 Extension specialists; the rest, supervisors and directors), and that by 1940 there may be 10,000 agents in Cooperative Extension work.

To attain the goal of Extension work, to help farmers to a richer and happier life, real teachers are needed, teachers who are more than just college graduates, men and women who are genuinely in sympathy with farmers and rural life. With Bankhead-Jones money available for "apprenticeships", it is possible for more workers of this calibre to be developed.

As an added incentive to Extension agents, Dr. Smith points out that they are beginning to receive the same rank and prestige as regular staff college professors, and general conditions or facilities are becoming more conducive to the adoption of Extension as a life work. About 25 States now grant sabbatical leave to Extension workers for further study. Their salaries in general are equal to most of the so-called learned professions, averaging a little higher than ministers, social workers, and high school teachers, but falling a little below doctors, dentists, and lawyers.

"Extension agents are directly responsible for the training, help, and guidance of about 400,000 local leaders of various kindsWe are to give them our best thoughts and let them present those thoughts to the people as their own."

> "Extension as a Profession", Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 252, December 1936.

Extension in Missouri

During the recent Missouri Farmers' Week, the Department of Rural Sociology, at the University of Missouri, conducted a Rural Youth Leaders' Conference. This was attended by representatives of some forty rural youth clubs. The sessions which were conducted by the discussion method, also served as a demonstration in the use of discussion.

Group_Discussion

Group discussion bulletins Nos. 1, 2, and 3 have been issued by the Division of Program Planning of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Bulletin No. 1 lists quantity prices for each pamphlet issued by the Extension Service, in cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, for use by discussion groups. The second bulletin discusses the four Regional Schools held last November and also contains a bibliography (see the January issue of Activities). Bulletin No.. 3 lists the sources of discussion material including radio broadcasts, State book services, county regional libraries, explaining where and how one may obtain certain information or material. The bulletin also contains notes on State activities, itineraries of field men, and bibliographical notes.

County Planning in Iowa

Demonstrations of county planning are now under way or proposed in three localities in Iowa. Warren County started with a program of local community analysis. The first year this county is featuring soil conservation and land use planning, together with comprehensive plans for the coordination of religious programs and organizations in open-country, village and town areas. Tama County is designated as the official experimental or demonstration county for the agricultural conservation program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Appanoose County is taking the lead in organizing a watershed demonstration area to include parts of six adjoining counties. This project is developing through the initiative of the county planning committee. The project will be proposed to the State Planning Board which will, it is hoped, coordinate the activities of various cooperating agencies within the area. Social and health programs will probably be developed on a county basis. Rural sociologists in extension and research are connected actively with these projects. It is expected that the results of different methods and approaches to planning here used will prove valuable to other county planning groups.

Extension in Illinois

Sixty-three county committees in Illinois have made specific recommendations that more or new work be done in Extension in 1937, 43 recommended more or new emphasis on unit organization and program planning, 21 suggested that recreational programs be further developed, 16 that aid be secured on discussion leader training, and 12 asked that rural-urban relationships conferences be held.

The plans for 1937, therefore, include 5 types of assistance: (1) conferences with community leaders for analysis, organization, program planning, and training of unit officers and committees; (2) assistance in cultural activities, including music and dramatics, county and State chorus work, and recreation leader training; (3) discussion leader training; (4) rural-urban or inter-group conferences, including pastor-farmer conferences, farmer-business men's conferences, and conferences to improve group relationships; and (5) talks and lectures to help interpret rural social trends.

The Illinois Extension Service announces that a four-day summer short-course for pastors and laymen will be held at the University of Illinois during the week of June 21, 1937. A camp for young adults and community leaders will be held at East Bay on Lake Bloomington in McLean County from August 9 to 14, with the Illinois Church Council, the Illinois Agricultural Association, and the rural life sections of the five teachers' colleges in the State cooperating.

State Medicine or the Status Quo?

"Who Should Pay the Doctor Bills?" is the provocative title of an Extension Service Stencil Circular from the University of Wisconsin, which is one of a series of handbooks designed for the use of rural organizations participating in the Wisconsin Public Discussion program.

The bulletin discusses the present situation from 3 view-points, namely the patient, the doctor, and the community; and offers 3 possible solutions for the present maldistribution of medical services: (1) continue the present system of private practice, (2) promote voluntary group medicine and insurance, and (3) adopt a system of State medicine. Voluntary or compulsory health insurance are possible alternatives.

Background material is presented in the bulletin to substantiate arguments for and against State medicine, with statistics chiefly from the report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care and the Debate Handbook on Socialized Medicine of the National University Extension Association, treating the subject from the three viewpoints and three possible solutions mentioned above. Experiments in State medicine in foreign countries and various localities in this country are described, and Federal, State, and city agencies involved in the provision of medical service are listed, as well as a list of source materials.

This Extension Service bulletin (Stencil Circular No. 174) by Henry L. Ewbank and Martin P. Andersen is available through the Department of Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Why Don't More Farm Boys and Girls Go to High School?

A handbook of discussion materials on this subject has been issued by the University of Wisconsin, as Stencil Circular No. 181. This bulletin discusses curricula, school attendance, vocational guidance, organization, and administration of schools. The Maryland consolidation program for rural schools on a county unit basis is cited as an example of a successful system. Tables and a list of source materials are included.

DIVISIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Farm Population Estimates

In order to develop estimates of farm population and of movements of farm population by states and to provide some checks on the information annually secured through crop correspondents, the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life is cooperating with a number of State Agricultural Experiment Stations in securing reports on changes in farm population during 1936. It is hoped that as a result of this work there will be developed a basis for continuing estimates for certain states, and that the Division may secure information which will assist in improving the annual estimates made for the entire country. Cooperative agreements have been entered into with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington. It is hoped that by 1938 a number of other states may carry on similar work.

A Reminder

The editors of "Farm Population and Rural Life Activities" would greatly appreciate the assistance of readers in having copies of research or extension bulletins and circulars sent to the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life as quickly as possible after publication. In a number of instances, adequate attention could not be given to certain materials because no copies were readily available. The Division is eager to keep itself and other interested persons informed of such publications, but it must rely upon the cooperation of the readers of "Activities" in order to do this most effectively.

Division Notes

Papers given by members of the Division of Farm Population at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Birmingham, Alabama, on April second and third, are: "The Farmers' Movement in the South", by Carl C. Taylor; "The Movement to Southern Farms, 1930-1935", by Conrad Taeuber; and "Some Opinions Held by Cotton Belt Farmers: Race and Tenure Differences", by E. A. Schuler.

Dr. O. E. Baker, of this Division, is the author of Chapter IX (Part II), entitled "The Agricultural Prospect", which appears in <u>Our National Resources and Their Conservation</u>, a new book edited by A. E. Parkins and J. R. Whitaker, and published by John Wiley and Sons Inc., New York (1936).

The report of the re-survey of 140 agricultural villages, under the direction of Dr. Edmund deS. Brunner, Teachers' College, Columbia University, will be off the press sometime in April, under the title: "Rural Trends in the Depression Years".

Soil Conservation Service Adds a Rural Sociologist

Mr. Philips B. Boyer, formerly of the University of Tennessee, has recently been appointed as Associate Agricultural Economist in the Soil Conservation Service, to assist in the researches dealing with the economic and social aspects of the Soil Conservation program. The benefits which society, both rural and urban, will and may expect to receive from a Soil Conservation program will be studied in close cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, as well as other Divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and with other Federal agencies. In addition, the "costs" to society, both real and nominal, of a Soil Conservation Program will be analyzed.

State Notes

The Daylion Press, Washington, D. C., announces the publication of a book by Professor J. L. Hypes of Connecticut State College, entitled <u>Spotlights on the Culture of India</u>, which discusses social and economic conditions in India.

A state-wide student conference is to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, April 16 and 17. This conference is sponsored by Alpha Zeta as a part of its rural leadership program. Grand View College, which operates along the lines of the Danish Folk School, will be host to the students of Iowa and will have a prominent part in the program.

The University of Kentucky announces the Third Annual Short Course for Town and Country Fastors and Lay Leaders, which is to be held at the College of Agriculture, Lexington, April 5 to 9. Dr. L. Riggleman of West Virginia and Dr. B. L. Hummel of Virginia will be the guest lecturers, and the services of the entire staff of the College of Agriculture will be available throughout the week. Several round-table discussion periods will be held, as well as instruction and demonstrations given in recreational projects.

Louisiana State University reports the visits of Professors Dwight Sanderson and Edmund deS. Brunner as guest speakers there during February. Professor Sanderson conducted two seminars for graduate students in Sociology and spoke to the staff of the Experiment Station on the nature, purposes, and developments of rural sociology, Professor Brunner gave a public address on recent rural social changes.

News comes from Harvard University that Professor P. A. Sorokin's three-volume work on <u>Culture-Integration</u> will appear about April 1 from the presses of the American Book Company. Williams and Norgate of London have brought out a British edition of C. C. Zimmerman's <u>Consumption and Standards of Living</u>.

Further research studies at Harvard dealing with Rural Sociology include a study of four factory towns and ten types of

rural communities. In these studies, the problems are placed in their historical setting based upon 300 years of town records.

The Fourth Annual Institute of Rural Economics was held at Ruigers University during January, February, and March. Approximately 100 farm leaders from all rural counties attended the series of meetings. The eight general topics of discussion were: "The Place of Planning in Agriculture", "The Place of Cooperative Organization", "Recent International Influences on Agriculture", "Finance Programs in Agriculture", "Distributing What We Produce", "Price Fixing, Milk Market Regulation", "Influences Affecting Rural Welfare", and "Summary: The Significance of Previous Discussions for New Jersey Farmers". Dr. Carl C. Taylor, of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, gave a paper on February 22 on "The Social Significances of Recent Developments". Addresses given before the Institute are available in mimeographed form for a small number of interested persons.

Professor B. O. Williams of Clemson Agricultural College Clemson, S. C., has accepted an invitation from the University of Kentucky to give a series of lectures in Rural Sociology in the summer school session in June of this year.

A new social science curriculum has been worked out within the General Science Division of the South Dakota State College, Brookings. It differs mainly from the other curricula of the institution in that it requires a larger number of social science subjects as a background and offers greater opportunity for electives including a major and minor in any one of four social science groups: history, political science, economics, or sociology.

CCC camp boys were recently offered a special course in rural social economics, which will continue several months, at the University of Virginia. This course was arranged through Dr. Wilson Gee, head of the School of Rural Social Economics, and a group of graduate students aided by the National Youth Administration.

Discussion at the Institute of Rural Affairs to be held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute July 27-30 will center on the human elements in agriculture. Because of wide interest in the low economic and social status of some family strains in the population of Virginia, the farm people who will gather at the college this summer will discuss chiefly population questions involving problems of low income, low percentage of land cwnership, and similar questions. Such facts as the following have focused attention on these family strains: Forty-three percent of 551 families, descendants on the male side of one family clan, are now paying less than \$1.00 taxes; sixty-one percent of these families own no land, although most of them live in the country.

The Virginia Social Science Association will hold its tenth annual meeting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Radford State Teachers' College, May 7 and 8. The general theme of the meeting will be "Virginia's Current Social and Economic Problems".

Professor J. H. Kolb, head of the Rural Sociology Department at the University of Wisconsin, and for the past year director of the Governor's Citizens' Committee on Public Welfare, has recently submitted a 300-page report on relief and penal systems in the State. The report includes an examination and criticism of present agencies and methods of handling relief and crime in Wisconsin, and makes specific recommendations for changes in administering these services. Whether or not the report will be published has not yet been determined.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Three Significant Documents

Because the population of this Nation from the beginning of settlement has always been a shifting population; because each newly settled area has been partially peopled by persons coming from older settled areas of the Nation; and because permanent settlement, insofar as it has been accomplished has resulted from trial, error, and success in adjustment of people to the land, three recent monographs, each depicting the process of adjustment, are of especial interest at this time.

"The Future of the Great Plains", the official report of the President's Great Plains Committee, tells the story of the general physical characteristics of the Great Plains, the use and misuse of lands, and the history of the settlement and resettlement of that area. The reader will find of especial interest chapters 2,3,4, and 5, dealing with "Population, Settlement, and Land Use", "Undesirable Tendencies in Land Use and Tenure", "Destructive Effects of Undesirable Tendencies", and "Attitudes of Mind". This monograph concludes with a suggested "Program of Readjustment and Development". Among others are: suggestions for readjustments of farm organization and practices; suggestions for legal action; and a prescription for conservation education.

The Hill Country of Northern New England, by H. F. Wilson, tells the story of adjustments and readjustments in the settlement of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, which took place 50 to 100 years before the Great Plains were settled. The author of this monograph divides his volume into what he calls the Summer, Autumn, Winter, and Spring of the region, the Summer covering the period 1790 to 1830, Autumn, 1830 to 1870, Winter, 1870 to 1900, and Spring 1900 to 1930.

The section dealing with the Summer reveals the same psychology and practices which prevailed in the Great Plains area one hundred years later, and tells the story of the pains resulting from necessary readjustments incident to a rapid, unguided development which overshot its mark. The story of the Autumn depicts that period in which the coming of railroads and the development of western lands threw the hill country into sharp competition with the great producing areas of the Middle West and necessitated drastic adjustments in farm enterprises and farm occupancy.

The story of the Winter depicts that period in which farm abandonment and agricultural retrenchment in the area became very pronounced, and the story of the Spring depicts the period of the successful readjustment.

Agricultural Progress on the Prairie Frontier, by R. W. Murchie, tells the story of the adjustments and readjustments which took place in the settlement of the prairie provinces of Canada. The author describes the first decade of the twentieth century as "the banner period of the prairie provinces". The next decade is characterized as that in which the most rapid agricultural development took place, and the period from 1921 to 1925 as the period of retrogression, a period in which agricultural retrenchment and farm abandonment were prevalent. The period from 1926 to 1931 could be described as one in which there was a distinct reaching for the final and correct adjustments of people and enterprises to land and planning.

Because there was a period of homesteading followed by a period of purchase and speculation, and because all of the boom psychology stimulated by railroad development and land agent propaganda, similar to the practices which prevailed from seventy-five to one hundred years ago in northern New England and fifty years ago in the Great Plains area, this picture of the settlement of the prairie provinces of Canada should be thoroughly known by those who are interested in and concerned with the readjustments now taking place in the Great Plains area.

A study of these three documents serves to reveal something approaching a pattern of human behavior in relation to the settlement, exploitation, and development of new agricultural areas. In each case, there was the boom period in which increasing population outran the capacity of the natural resources to support settlement; there was the phenomenon of immigrants carrying into the new regions the patterns of farming of the areas from which they came; and there was the inevitable painful readjustment which resulted from the failure to have adequate information on the type of farming, size of farms, and population carrying capacity of the natural resources.

Tenancy

"The recent increase in tenancy is a central feature of the

problem referred to this Committee. But the farm groups whose current relationship to the land is unsatisfactory are clearly not all tenants, any more than the relationship of all tenants to the land is unsatisfactory.

"In approaching its assignment, the Committee has therefore attempted to keep in view the whole agricultural ladder. It has examined the groups on each of the rungs to find the extent to which their members have, or lack, a reasonable measure of wellbeing.

"The Committee's examination of the agricultural ladder has indicated a series of groups of farm families whose insecurity is a threat to the integrity of rural life. The families comprised within these groups constitute fully half the total farm population of the country. Approximately one farm family out of four occupies a position in the Nation's social and economic structure that is precarious and should not be tolerated."

The Committee recommends, therefore, that a Farm Security Administration be set up in the Department of Agriculture, with authority to buy and sell land and sell or lease to tenants or other distressed rural groups. A trial lease period not to exceed five years would precede the execution of a sale contract.

The Report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, from which the above quotations and statements are taken, has recently been released. It makes the following recommendations:

- 1. For Federal Action: measures to facilitate farm home ownership and to help existing owners keep their farms; measures for the rehabilitation of groups not now prepared to take over their own farms; certain suggestions for improving the condition of laborers; a program for aiding families stranded on submarginal land and taking such land out of cultivation; and proposals for the discouragement of speculation in farm lands.
- 2. For State Action: measures to improve lease contracts and landlord-tenant relationships; to modify the taxation of farm lands; and to safeguard the civil liberties of tenants.
- 3. For Joint Federal and State Action: the Federal Government should aid state governments in drafting proper regulatory measures regarding tenant contracts; the Federal Government should stimulate and cooperate in state research and extension work aimed at improving lease contracts; in selected local areas, consideration should be given to trying the experiment of including improvements in leases among the conditions of benefit payments under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Acts. Education and health services are urged.

The personnel of the technical sub-committee which drafted

this report includes the following: W. W. Alexander, A. G. Black, John D. Black, L. C. Gray, Charles S. Johnson, Lowry Nelson, E. G. Nourse, and M. W. Thatcher.

The problem of farm tenancy is discussed in the January issue of "Rural America", in which the first article is the talk which Secretary Wallace made at the opening session of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, of which he was the Chairman. He briefly outlined the status of farm tenancy in this country, showing its alarming rate of increase, pointing out contributing causes, and emphasizing the numerous serious difficulties which lie in the path of its solution. He expressed the hope that the whole question of tenancy be attacked from its broad and manifold angles, with the ultimate purpose of mapping out a long-time practical program which will "revive hope and opportunities, make easier the tenant's climb to ownership and his security once arrived there, or else give him security of tenure, and at the same time be fair to owners and above all to the land itself."

Also included in the January issue of "Rural America" is a description of the Delta Cooperative Farm, located at Hillhouse, Mississippi, by Sam H. Franklin Jr., and another article on tenancy entitled "Tenant Farmer", written by Erskine Caldwell.

The February issue continues the discussion of tenancy with an article entitled, "Some Tenant Problems of the South", by Harold C. Hoffsommer of Louisiana State University.

Civil Service Examination

The Civil Service Commission has announced the following examinations: unassembled, principal social science analyst, \$5600; senior social science analyst, \$4600; social science analyst, \$3800; associate social science analyst, \$3200; assembled, assistant social science analyst, \$2600; junior social science analyst, \$2000, (optional subjects: 1. economics, 2. sociology and social research, 3. political science). Applications must be filed by April 19, except from far western states, for which April 22 is the closing date.

Persons interested in research positions in the Federal Government now or later are urged to make application for this examination. Among the agencies which may use the register of eligibles resulting from these examinations are: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Social Security Board, Children's Bureau, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The registers of eligibles to be set up from these examinations will supersede those based on previous examinations. Applicants for the assembled examinations (\$2000 - \$2600 per year) are urged to take examinations in more than one of the optional subjects listed whenever they are qualified to do so.

Rural Work in China

The Shantung Institute of Rural Reconstruction has issued a booklet describing its five years of rural work. It was founded in June 1931 as a successor to the College for Village Self-Government which was closed in 1930, and continues the same work, as an "organization of the rural community for quickening social progress".

The Institute is headed by a President and Vice-President appointed by the Shantung Provincial Government, with full responsibility for the work of the Institute. There are three departments: research, training, and demonstration, as well as a hospital and agricultural stations. The research department offers a year of theoretical study to college graduates who later serve in the Institute or in the supervision of rural work in the home districts of Shantung. The training department also gives a one-year course to students between the ages of 20 and 25 who have received a junior middle-school education, and whose families have lived there for generations. The demonstration work is done in Tsouping Hsien, which is an experimental district for Rural Reconstruction in which the Institute chooses the Magistrate, subject to approval and appointment by the provincial government. It is designed for: 1. experiments in administrative reform within the hsien, 2. experiments in local self-government, 3. experiments in social reform.

The Institute's activities include lecture courses for primary school teachers as rural leaders; agricultural Fairs, which are widely attended and are designed to arouse interest in rural affairs and to widen acquaintanceships; and Peasant Schools, held for three months while farmers are at leisure.

The general aim is expressed as "the gradual accomplishment of self-government for China, beginning with local units and working outward." Two basic ideas form the groundwork for achieving this aim: 1. the enlightenment of villages to bring about voluntary action toward progress instead of negative and compulsory measures, and 2. organization of rural communities, accompanied by the introduction of cooperation and mutual aid. It is believed that the local administration of government has been improved in the past five years and that the centers which are established for education and self government in the village schools and rural district schools are helpful in that they are not only schools, but are also offices for the actual administration of local self-government.

"Five Years of Rural Work in Tsouping", by the Shantung Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Tsouping, Shantung, China. (R.R. Series No. 2, October, 1936.)

Agricultural Organization in New Zealand

The Institute of Pacific Relations has recently released a comprehensive survey of agricultural organization and land utilization in New Zealand. Among the chapters of most interest to Rural Sociologists are: I, "Trends of Development"; III, "General Characteristics of New Zealand Rural Economy"; IV, "The Place of Primary Industries in the Economic Life of New Zealand: VIII. "Land Settlement and Settlement Finance"; IX, "The Finance of Land Purchase and of Farming Operations"; X, "Land Tenure and Land Transfer"; XI, "Agricultural Labor in New Zealand"; XIV, "Agricultural Education"; XV, "The Department of Agriculture"; XVI, "Farmers' Organizations"; XXXIV, "Cooperation in New Zealand"; and XXXV, "Control Boards".

> Agricultural Organization in New Zealand, A Survey of Land Utilization, Farm Organization, Finance and Marketing, by the Institute of Pacific Relations (International Research Series); Edited by H. Belshaw, D. O. Williams, F. B. Stephens, E. J. Fawcett, and H. R. Rodwell; Published by the Melbourne University Press, in association with the Oxford University Press. 1936.

Cooperation

A number of articles appearing in the January-February issue of the "Cooperative Journal" (the 1937 Bluebook Issue of the National Cooperative Council) may be of interest to readers of "Activities". They are: "Democracy, Agriculture, and Unemployment", by John D. Miller; 1937 Resolutions of the National Cooperative Council, especially as regards a "National Agricultural Policy" and "Agricultural Credit"; "The Status of Agricultural Cooperation"; and "The Cooperative Book-Shelf", which lists many important works on agricultural cooperation.

There is a table showing that during 1935-1936, there were 10,500 agricultural cooperatives in the United States, with a farmer-membership of 3,660,000, which did a volume of business totalling \$1,840,000,000 (nearly the 1931-32 level). It is also stated that two trends in American agricultural cooperation notable over a period of years were especially notable during 1935-36, namely: 1. continuing increases in the number of farmers participating in cooperative activities; and 2. continuing decreases in the total number of organizations.

Cooperative Irrigation Companies

"Organization and Operation of Cooperative Irrigation Companies", by Wells A. Hutchins, Circular C102, published by the

Cooperative Division of the Farm Credit Administration, (August 1936), is a 54-page bulletin describing mutual or cooperative irrigation companies and comparing irrigation districts with commercial irrigation companies. It is a summary of the results of a study in California and Utah of the organization, operation, and financing of these companies, giving the advantages and limitations of this type of irrigation organization. Some of the topics covered are: method of incorporation, administration, policies, organization, membership, services, facilities, operation and maintenance etc., including a selected list of references. A more comprehensive and detailed description of the study is given in Bulletin No. 8, of the Farm Credit Administration, which is now in press.

Rural Medical Service

The Bureau of Medical Economics of the American Medical Association, with the assistance of State medical associations, has begun an investigation to determine whether or not rural sections of the United States are suffering from a lack of available medical service and if so, where these sections are and what the conditions are which are responsible for such deficiencies.

During the period 1934-1936, there were found to be 297 counties in 30 states which had more than 2,000 persons per physician. In 1934, there were 16 counties, located in 8 states, which had no physicians; in 1936, there were 19 such counties, 6 of them being in Texas and 4 in Nebraska.

A study has been made of the social and economic conditions in these 297 counties, including such information as income, retail sales, farm values, relief granted, and such vital statistics as were available. In some cases, general hospital facilities of adjoining counties were included, since the county is not always a practical unit to judge availability of medical services. These facts have been collected for all states containing four or more counties having 2,000 or more population per physician.

In the January second issue of the American Medical Association Bulletin, a Supplement to the A.M.A. Journal, this study is described and factual material is presented for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida. In subsequent issues, the conditions for the remaining states investigated will be presented, followed by a general discussion of rural medical service.

Recent Releases from the Census Bureau

United States Life Tables, 1930, now available from the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C. (75ϕ) , includes life tables for white and Negro males and females for Continental United States, 1929-1931; for Registration states of 1920, for 1929-1931, 1920-1929, and 1919-1921; and for white males and females for the

Original Registration states for 1929-1931, 1909-1911, 1901-1910, and 1900-1902; for the Registration states of 1920, excluding deaths from Tuberculosis, 1920-1929, for white males and females. There is also a table of Life Table Functions by subdivisions of the first year of life.

The Division of Vital Statistics announces that the annual report entitled, "Birth, Stillbirth, and Infant Mortality Statistics, 1934", is now available.

Also from the Division of Vital Statistics are the following Special Reports, issued during the first three months of 1937: Summary of Natality and Mortality Data for each state, 1935; Deaths (exclusive of stillbirths) from all causes, and Death Rates per 1,000 estimated population, 1920-1935, by states; Deaths (exclusive of stillbirths) from all causes, 1934-1935; Deaths (exclusive of stillbirths) under 1 year of age in each state, 1915-1935; Deaths (exclusive of stillbirths) under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births, 1915-1935, by states; and Survey of Organization and Procedures in State Bureaus of Vital Statistics.

The Census Bureau, in February, issued a Table entitled "Estimated Population of the United States by Age as of April 1, 1935", with Census Figures from 1900 to 1930 for comparison; and in January, "Estimated Population of the United States by Six-Month Periods from January 1, 1930 to July 1, 1936", with distribution of the January 1 estimate for each year by states.

A compilation of "Marriage and Divorce Statistics", Marriages and Divorces, 1922 to 1935, has also been released. The estimates were taken from an article entitled, "Marriage and Divorce in Recent Years", by S. A. Stouffer and Lyle M. Spencer, which was published in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in November 1936.

Releases from the Social Security Board

The Division of Public Assistance Statistics of the Social Security Board has issued three series of publications since February 1, 1936. They are as follows: 1. a monthly bulletin, "Public Assistance, Monthly Statistics for the United States", of which eleven numbers have been issued, the most recent number covering data for November 1936; 2. a quarterly bulletin, "Public Assistance, Quarterly Review of Statistics for the United States", with a supplement containing data for each county, of which three numbers have appeared, the last for the quarter ending September 30, 1936; 3. a mimeographed report issued the first of each month giving estimates for the current month, estimates for the preceding month, and actual data for the second preceding month.

The eleven field representatives of the Social Security Board in the twelve regions are attempting to get accuracy and

completeness of data through this state reporting system and are also giving assistance and guidance to state and local statisticians. Since November 1, 1936, social information about cases accepted and closed has been collected, and since June 1, 1936, the Division has been responsible for the collection, analysis, and publication of relief data from 118 urban areas, formerly reporting to the United States Children's Bureau, the results of which are to be published in "Changes During the Month in Different Types of Public and Private Relief in Urban Areas". The most recent bulletin covers data for October 1936, released January 21, 1937.

In January of this year, an agreement was made to transfer "Rural and Town Relief Reporting Sample" from the Division of Social Research, WPA, to this Division of the Social Security Board before July 1, 1937. The Division is cooperating with the WPA in the collection of general relief statistics throughout the United States, under an interim agreement for the six-month period October 1, 1936 to March 31, 1937. The procedure for such an integrated reporting system, which will eliminate duplications in the count of cases of general relief and special forms of public assistance for state and local agencies administering more than one form of assistance is expected to be completed in the near future.

National Industrial Conference Board

From this organization comes the publication entitled, "Income in Agriculture, 1929-1935", by Robert F. Martin, which is a continuation of the Board's studies in the field of national income (initiated by his "National Income and Its Elements".) The net agricultural income estimates presented therein were made by geographic regions, and account was taken of the part-time nature of a large proportion of enterprises included in agricultural statistics; allowance was also made for income received by part-time operators for labor away from the farm. For comparison with other classes on the value of products consumed on the farm, part of the farm income should be rated at prices paid by non-farm families and account was taken of this fact. The author reaches the conclusion that instead of generally depressed conditions in agriculture since 1929, there has been a series of special farm problems affecting special products and regions.

Population Index

The quarterly, "Population Index", January 1937, continuing "Population Literature", has recently been inaugurated by the School of Public Affairs, Princeton University, and the Population Association of America. It is a guide to current demographic materials for students, research workers, and teachers, containing two sections, "Current Items" and "Statistics", and the bibliography previously carried by "Population Literature".

Current Items include notes on matters of special interest to students of population, such as announcements or reports of meetings and comments on new developments. The Statistics section contains population and vital statistics for a large number of countries, this particular issue giving the following tables:

1. Population Growth, 92 countries; 2. Birth Rates, 54 countries;

3. Death Rates, 54 countries; 4. Infant Mortality Rates, 51 countries; 5. Marriage Rates, 42 countries; and 6. Vital Rates, Geographic Divisions of the United States.

The Bibliography section, which contains references to over 400 books and articles, is subdivided as follows: General; Formal Demography; Mortality; Fertility; Marriage, Divorce, and the Family; Migration; Regional Studies; Characteristics; Policy; Method; References and Compendia; plus an Index of Countries.

Rural Sociology Journal

The following articles will be found in the March issue of "Rural Sociology":

Tenancy in the Central States......Dwight Sanderson Structural Changes in Rural Russia...N. S. Timasheff Membership of the American Farm

Bureau.....Ralph Russell

Rural Fiction as Interpreter

of Rural Life......Caroline B. Sherman

Social and Economic Conditions

Rating Marginal Homes From

Observation.....E. L. Kirkpatrick

The Influence of the Family-

Farm Upon Occupation.....Roy H. Holmes

Depopulation in a Remote

Notes......Peter A. Nearing

and Leland B. Tate

and Helen Wheeler

There are also signed Book Reviews, News Notes, and Announcements.

Le Play House

Le Play House announces a Field Study Meeting at Ross-on-Wye, beginning April twenty-third, 1937. "Social Conditions" is listed as one of the subjects which may be included in the program of study. Anyone interested in this or other field studies should address Mrs. Farquharson, Hon. Organiser of Field Studies, Le Play House, 35 Gordon Square, London W. C. 1.

Available Publications

The Division of Economic Information of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announces that copies of Agricultural Statistics, 1936, the 420-page printed volume containing the statistical tabulations formerly published in the Yearbook of Agriculture are still available. Copies of The Yearbook may also be obtained from this Division.

Mid-West Conference

On April 23 and 24, the Department of Rural Sociology, of the University of Missouri, in cooperation with the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, will hold a Mid-West Conference on Rural Population Research. This will be held in Columbia, Missouri, and will consider the needs, objectives, and methods of research in relation to population migration, population composition, and to regional determinants. Various sessions of the conference will be led by persons outstanding in their respective fields of research. Reports, together with exhibits, concerning research in the midwest states will be an important part of the gathering. Persons pursuing or contemplating research in rural population are invited to attend.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS
Reviewed and Received

Federal

"Problems and Suggestions in the Drafting of Rural Zoning Enabling Legislation", by Herman Walker Jr., Land Use Planning Publ. No. 10, Land Utilization Div., Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., December 1936.

"Some Considerations in Support of the Constitutionality of Rural Zoning as a Police Power Measure", by Herman Walker Jr., Land Use Planning Publ. No. 11, Land Utilization Div., Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., December 1936.

"The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Food Dollar", prepared by the B.A.E., Leaflet No. 234, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C., February 1937. Available from the Supt. of Documents. (5¢)

"A Graphic Summary of Farm Tenure", by H. A. Turner, U.S.D.A. Misc. Publ. No. 261, December 1936, pp. 52. (Based largely on the Census of 1930 and 1935.)

"Extension as a Profession", by C. B. Smith, Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 252, U.S.D.A., December 1936.

"Organization and Operation of Cooperative Irrigation Companies", by Wells A. Hutchins, Cir. No. C102, Coop. Div., Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C., August 1936.

"Report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy", Findings and Recommendations, prepared under the auspices of the National Resources Committee, Washington, D. C., February 1937.

"The Future of the Great Plains", report of the Great Plains Committee, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., December 1936. (40¢)

"Problems of Land Tenure in Relation to Land-Use Adjustments", by Rainer Schickele and John P. Himmel, Land Use Planning Publ. No. 9, Land Utilization Div., Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., December 1936, (in cooperation with Iowa Agri. Exp. Sta.)

"State Planning" - Programs and Accomplishments, National Resources Committee, December 1936, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937. (25¢)

"On the Front Lines With Agriculture", A report of Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics in 1934, Ext. Serv., U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C. Issued January 1937. (Supt. of Documents - 10¢)

"U. S. Census of Agriculture", 1935 - Descriptive Supplement, Technique of Tabulation, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937. (10¢)

"Membership Relations of Cooperative Associations", by J. W. Jones, Bull. No. 9, Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C., October 1936.

"Recent Policies Designed to Promote Farm Ownership in Denmark", by Elizabeth R. Hooker, Land Use Planning Publ. No. 15, Land Utilization Div., Resettlement Administration, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C., March 1937. (Statistical Supplement containing 6 tables.)

"Combined Farming-Industrial Employment in the Naval Stores Subregion of Georgia and Alabama", by W. W. Troxell, L. S. Cottrell Jr., A. D. Edwards, and R. H. Allen, Prelim. Rept., Res. Bull. J-5, Resettlement Administration, November 1936.

"Combined Farming-Industrial Employment in the Lumber Subregion of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina", by W. W. Troxell, L. S. Cottrell Jr., A. D. Edwards, and R. H. Allen, Prelim. Rept., Res. Bull. J-6, Resettlement Administration, November 1936.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Rural Section, Div. of Social Research, W.P.A., August-September 1936 and September-October 1936.

State

Arkansas

"A Statement Concerning Farm Tenancy Submitted to the Governor's Commission on Farm Tenancy", by the Executive Council, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, Arkansas, August 1936. (also "Supplement to Southern Tenant Farmers' Union Statement on Farm Tenancy", by Executive Council, Memphis, Tennessee, October 1936.)

"Characteristics and Costs of County Government in Arkansas", by C. O. Brannen, Bull. No. 338, Agri. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Ark., Fayetteville, January 1937.

Connecticut

"Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut", by N. L. Whetten and E. C. Devereaux Jr., Bull. No. 212, Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta., Storrs, Conn., October 1936.

Illinois

"Some Factors Affecting Social Welfare in Rural Areas of Alexander County, Illinois, 1934", by D. E. Lindstrom, (RSM-4), Univ. of Ill. Agr. Exp. Sta. in cooperation with the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, published in January 1937.

Iowa

"Farm Tenure in Iowa", by Rainer Schickele and Chas. A. Norman, Bull. No. 354, Ia. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ames, (B.A.E., A.A.A., and Land Utilization Div. of Resettlement Administration cooperation), January 1937.

Kentucky

"Community and Neighborhood Groupings in Knott County", by Merton Oyler, Bull. No. 366, Ky. Agr. Exp. Sta. Lexington, 1936. (In cooperation with Div. of Farm Pop., B.A.E., U.S.D.A.)

New Mexico

"Natural and Economic Factors Affecting Rehabilitation in the Upper South Plains of the Texas Panhandle and the High Plains of Eastern New Mexico" (as typified by Curry County, New Mexico), by H. M. Pevehouse, Resettlement Administration Res. Bull. K-10, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., December 1936.

New York

"Use and Value of Highways in Rural New York", by W. M. Curtiss, Bull. No. 656, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, August 1936.

"Westchester County, New York - Commission on Government" (Summary Statements on Studies prepared by the Institute of Public Administration in connection with the preparation of a new charter for the county, December 1935.)

"List of Publications", Bull. No. 47, Revised November 1936, Cornell Extension Service, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, New York.

"Local Government in Tompkins County, New York", by T. N. Hurd, Bull. No. 657, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, 1936.

The Hill Country of Northern New England, by Harold F. Wilson, Columbia Univ. Press, New York, 1936.

Ohio

"Ohio Agricultural Statistics, 1935", by G. S. Ray and L. H. Wiland of U.S.D.A., and P.P. Wallrabenstein of Ohio Exp. Sta., Bull. No. 577, Ohio Exp. Sta., Wooster, October 1936.

<u>Oregon</u>

"Serving the Farm and Home Interests of Oregon, 1934 - 1936", by Frank L. Ballard, Ext. Bull. No. 493, Oregon State College, Fed. Coop. Ext. Serv., Corvallis, November 1936.

South Dakota

"The Agricultural Situation in the Intensive Livestock Production Area of Southeastern South Dakota" (as typified by Moody County, South Dakota), Res. Bull. K-ll, by H. L. Stewart, B.A.E., prepared for the Rural Section, Div. of Social Research, W.P.A., Resettlement Administration, Washington, D. C., December 1936. (26 tables, 4 figures.)

"The Farm Family Standard of Living in Codington County, South Dakota" (180 Families of Selected Localities in Codington County, 1935), by Zeta E. Bankert, Standard of Living Studies, Bull. No. 1, S. D. State College, Brookings, and South Dakota W.P.A., (in cooperation with Div. of Farm Pop., B.A.E., U.S.D.A., and Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A.), December 1936.

Tennessee

"Graphic Summary of the Agricultural Situation" (With Some Related General Economic Factors), Agr. Econ. and Rural Sociology Dept., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, November 1, 1936 (U. S. W.P.A.) in 2 parts, report No. 21.

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FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 1, 1937.

Vol. XI, No. 3

CONTENTS	
Research Reports	Page
Rural Trends in Depression Years Human and Agricultural Distress in the Drought Area Population Estimates and Vital Statistics Agricultural Lator Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas Rural Relief and Rehabilitation Rural Rehabilitation in Wyoming Unemployment Relief in Arizona Connecticut Rural Relief Families Relief in Nebraska South Dakota Relief Studies Rural Youth Community Size and Marital Status Rural Women and WPA Rural Community Buildings Granger Homesteads Education As Related to Standard of Living Selectivity of Migration	1 3 6 7 9 10 12 13 13 14 14 15 15 16 16 16 17 17 18
Extension Perorts	19
Divisional and State News Special Items	22
Michigan Census Publications Rural Vital Statistics Minnesota Rural Law Enforcement European Cooperatives The Population Problem in Egypt Recent Statistical Releases Rural Sociology Journal Adult Education List of Publications	24 25 27 27 29 29 30 30

Through the sudden death on April 20, 1937, of Professor Robert W. Murchie at the age of 54, the University of Minnesota and Rural Sociologists generally have lost a man who had secured and held the esteem and affection of those who had had any extended contact with him.

Professor Murchie brought to Rural Sociology an unusually comprehensive view of the problems of agriculture, particularly the agriculture of the Great Plains. His rural church work and his training and experience in rural economics had given him a point of view which, coupled with his growing, and ultimately primary, interest in Sociology, enabled him to make a series of unique contributions. His studies of the settlement and agriculture of western Canada clearly reveal the broadness of this view.

At the time of his death, Dr. Murchie was professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, which position he had held since 1931. During that time he was in charge of rural social studies under the Purnell Act at the Minnesota State College of Agriculture. He was actively associated with the Rural Rehabilitation Program in the State of Minnesota and served for a time as State Director; later as chairman of the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. In 1933 and 1934 he supervised a state-wide recreation program which was conducted as a relief and C. W. A. project, demonstrating there his aptness for public administration.

Professor Murchie's range of public service goes back to his early efforts in connection with the organization of the United Church of Canada. While teaching Rural Economics at the Agricultural College of the University of Manitoba from 1915 to 1931, he carried on a number of social and economic surveys in western Canada. In 1926 and 1927 he directed a study of "Unused Land in Manitoba", for the Provincial Government of Manitoba.

In 1927, he served as chairman of a Royal Commission on Seasonal Unemployment in Canada. In 1928 he became associated with the Study of Pioneer Settlements in Canada, serving as chairman of the Committee on Agricultural Economics of the Canadian Pioneer Problems Committee. His interest in problems of the prairie frontier was continued; in 1934, in collaboration with C. A. Dawson, he published "The Settlement of the Peace River Country", and in 1936, "Agricultural Progress on the Prairie Frontier", which was mentioned in the last issue of "Activities".

In spite of his participation in public affairs in recent years, Dr. Murchie has been actively associated with the Rural Sociological research work at the University of Minnesota. He supervised the work under the cooperative plans of Rural Research of the F.E.R.A. and W.P.A. As a member of the Minnesota State Planning Board, he assisted in the direction of a number of surveys. A few months before his death, there appeared a bulletin on "Population Trends in Minnesota" which had been prepared under his direction.

Few persons who worked with Professor Murchie do not owe him a debt of gratitude for some unique service which was characteristically thoughtful. His colleagues found him a constant source of encouragement and a person who was unusually efficient at maintaining harmony among them. Professor Murchie was not a joiner of professional organizations and, therefore, not as well known to his fellow workers as he might have been. But those who worked with him found in him a valued advisor and a trusted friend.

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Rural Trends in Depression Years

The third survey of 140 agricultural villages has been published under the title, <u>Rural Trends in Depression Years</u>, by Edmund deS. Brunner and Irving Lorge. Dr. Brunner had also directed the surveys of these villages begun in 1923 and 1929.

The report opens with a summary of the basic changes in and adjustments of agriculture from 1930 to 1935 as shown by the census and illustrated in the communities studied. There follows an analysis of changes in population and in communities as such and in the relations of village to country. The discussion then turns to changes in institutions such as those of trade, industry, banking, education, religion, and social life. In connection with education, special attention is given to the rise of adult education during the depression years. Finally, consideration is given to the question of relief, a phenomenon previously almost nonexistent in these communities.

The total population of these villages increased by 6.6 percent between 1930 and 1936, (estimates used in 1936) the largest increase, almost 13 percent, being in the Far West. Migration to villages was from both farms and urban centers, varying in the different regions. The increase in open country population was largely from nearby urban centers and chiefly to cheap, poor, vacated, or submarginal lands. This mobility of village and farm population, of course, raised serious questions in regard to adequate community organizations, relief costs, housing shortage, and competition for jobs.

There was an increase in the number of stores in the 140 villages, in spite of a drop of 52 percent in retail sales between 1930 and 1933, the increase being especially noticeable in grocery stores, liquor stores, and beauty parlors. It was found that chain stores have <u>not</u> replaced local cnes. The number of industries declined in every region and there was a trend toward smaller plants. There were fewer full-time and more part-time workers, although the average number of both fell between 1930 and 1935. Labor unions appeared in some villages for the first time.

In the field of rural education, the beginning of a post-depression upgrade was noted, but rural schools are still much poorer than urban, and open country poorer than village schools. The number of open country schools has declined and a few village schools have been added to carry this load. School budgets, teachers' salaries, and per pupil cost have gone down; State aid, however, has nearly doubled. Teachers' training, to meet competition, has improved. School enrollment has increased, due partly to N. Y. A. assistance and the shortening of the school term. There is a trend toward more of the social sciences and vocational education and guidance in the school curriculum.

More county agricultural and home demonstration agents were added to the Service, and a great use was made of local volunteer leaders

(helped by the A.A.A. program) in local and county planning conferences, public affairs discussions, child development and parent education work, planning leisure-time activity (drama, music, arts and crafts, etc.) and radio programs. An important phase of the work of the Extension Service was in the assistance rendered in the education of Resettlement Administration clients.

There was little increase in county and district library organizations, but an effort is being made to keep and improve the ones in existence. Much of the reading material of rural people is furnished by the Extension Service rather than libraries. There was some increase in adult education in the schools, but while the number of cultural offerings doubled, most of the subjects are vocational in nature and the programs are not balanced.

A heavy turnover was found in social organizations during the 1930-36 period, with more deaths occurring than births. Here again, the Agricultural Extension Service played a leading role in organizing many clubs and planning programs, in addition to much 4-H club work among rural youth, and the W. P. A. provided recreational facilities in many places. However, lack of interest, community conflicts, excessive costs, and the widespread nature of some organizations combined to cause a high mortality rate among social organizations, particularly of groups of a fraternal nature. Membership in social organizations has declined, per capita expenditures have gone down nearly 30 percent, but average attendance at meetings has improved.

Little change was noted in local government in rural areas. Budgets have gone down, but many civic improvements were made possible through federal help.

The number of churches has declined, particularly in the open country. The number of members per church has increased, together with the number of open country members in village and town churches, but attendance and church support have gone down sharply. There is also less emphasis on the socialized aspects of the church program. While there has been an improvement in ministers' training, as in the case of teachers, salaries here again are lower.

A decrease in per capita sales in villages, rather than population increase, seemed to be associated with high relief loads. The median age of the 1935 relief population was 21 years. The number of persons in the average relief family was 3.8. Outstanding characteristics of the relief rolls were the large number of children and the large number of unskilled workers.

The final chapter indicates some things that their findings suggest to the authors, either of the need for experimentation or of policies that are desirable to achieve larger measure of social-economic well-being in rural America.

Human and Agricultural Distress in the Drought Area

Three reports dealing with problems in the drought area have just been completed through the cooperation of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Works Progress Administration, and the Resettlement Administration. They delimit the areas of greatest drought intensity; examine the agricultural situation and future prospects of the Great Plains Region in the light of continuous migrations into and out of the area; analyze the extent of human distress in terms of the kind and amount of Federal aid that has been expended in the area; and describe the occupational characteristics of relief recipients.

In the report on "Areas of Intense Drought Distress, 1930-1936," 5 indices of drought intensity were applied to 803 sample counties in 13 drought States to determine the relative effect of drought conditions in each county. These indices were: average percent departure from normal annual rainfall; average crop conditions as percentages of normal; average pasture conditions as percentages of normal; percent of increase or decrease in number of cattle; and amount of Federal aid percapita.

As an index for gauging the gravity of human distress resulting from moisture deficiency, crop failure, pasture damage, and depletion of livestock, and for localizing the areas of varying intensity, the amount of money expended by Federal agencies dealing directly with the drought problem was found to present the most impressive as well as the most accurate criterion of the situation. Distribution of Federal assistance is a measure of the direct effect of drought upon the people of the drought area; yet in itself it is a remarkably reliable guide in the delineation of the trouble area.

Of the 803 ccunties studied, there were 137 in which per capita Federal aid for the period 1933-1936 was \$175 and over, and 148 in which it ranged from \$119 to \$175. On the basis of an average family of four members, this means that in more than one-third of all counties studied a sum was expended sufficient to provide at least \$476 for every family.

Two distinct areas of acute distress stand out: one on the Northern Great Plains, extending to the Canadian border; the other on the Southern or High Plains. The northern problem area comprises almost the entire States of North and South Dakota, the eastern third of Montana, northeastern Wyoming, west central Minnesota, and one county in northern Nebraska. The southern problem area is an irregularly shaped area centered in the Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle Region, and including parts of the six States of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado.

The conclusion that agriculture has overstepped its bounds in its westward march is inescapable. The line now recognized by the Forest Service as marking the boundary of the western range, running north and south from the Canadian to the Mexican border, which has been continuously pushed westward before agricultural expansion, cuts through

the heart of the northern region of greatest drought intensity, and forms an eastern boundary to the southern problem area.

The report on "The People of the Drought States" notes that a considerable turnover of population has always been characteristic of the area and points to the fact that between 1863 and 1936 more than 3 million original homestead entries were filed in the Great Plains, but that only 58 percent of them were finally completed; the rest were cancelled or relinquished. The continued shifting of the farm population of the drought States has continued throughout the depression years 1930-1935. During these years, 1,600,000 persons moved from towns and cities to farms in this region, and 2 million moved to towns and cities from the region.

Nearly 6 percent of the 6 million farm people in the 10 Great Plains drought States in 1935 were not on farms in 1930. This movement from towns and cities to farms was most pronounced in New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado. In New Mexico, the number of people who moved to farms after 1930 averaged 800 per county, and in the cotton-growing sections of the staked plains (western Texas) the number of new residents per county ranged from 500 to 1,000. In most of the dry-land farming counties from the Oklahoma Panhandle north to the Canadian line, the Census of Agriculture taken at the beginning of 1935 showed an average per county of 200 to 500 persons who had not been there 5 years previously.

Unless some far-reaching changes in attitude and policy toward land ownership and use occur, a new wave of immigrants may come in to take the places of those who have recently left. Cheap land and the prospects for speculative gain are almost certain to attract new settlers. Even the most distressed portions of the area reported some migrants to farms between 1930 and 1935.

Some future difficulties of unwise resettlement on depleted Great Plains land may be prevented if lands which have recently reverted to public ownership are held for uses to which they are best adapted. Restrictions on the use of private land, as through zoning, might eliminate much of the waste which now results from attempts to defy the forces of nature. Furthermore, the transfer of selected tracts to public ownership might assist in preventing the recurrence of those errors which have been so numerous in the history of the region.

The shifting of publicly or privately owned land from crops to grazing would tend to reduce the resident population, for it would either displace residents or prevent the replacement of those who have left.

Stability of residence itself is not necessarily a desirable goal, but the high degree of mobility which has been characteristic of the Great Plains Area indicates an unsatisfactory adjustment between man and his natural environment. Any successful program to adapt agriculture to the available natural resources would tend to reduce the volume of migration to and from the area.

That farm families rather than nonfarm families were the chief sufferers in the drought area during the period 1934-1936 is emphasized in the report, "Relief and Rehabilitation in the Drought Area."

In June 1935, almost seven-tenths of the heads of rural relief households in the eight drought States were farmers or farm laborers. In North Dakota, Kansas, South Dakota, and Colorado, the effects of the drought were particularly severe in the case of rural households living in the open country.

Conditions directly attributable to drought were responsible for almost three-fifths of the June rural relief cases in the eight drought States surveyed which were on relief for the first time. Loss of job was responsible for only 14 percent of the applications for relief by rural households in these States.

In the month the study was made, more than seven-tenths of the farm operator heads of households on relief rolls in the eight drought States were tenants. The percentage of farm operators on relief who were tenants was highest in Oklahoma (87 percent), and amounted to over 70 percent in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. In each of the eight States, tenants were greatly overrepresented on relief. Moreover, displacement of tenants was a serious factor in the drought situation. Large proportions of tenants in the eight drought States were no longer on farms in June 1935.

Only a little more than 2 percent of the heads of households whose usual occupation was agriculture had shifted to nonagricultural employment by June 1935, but the shift from nonagricultural to agricultural employment was slightly greater. This shift was greatest in Oklahoma, where 14 percent of the nonagricultural workers had become farmers.

In February 1935, one-fifth of all rural households in all sections of the Great Plains Area with the exception of the Western Corn Belt were receiving Federal emergency relief. A year later, in spite of a good crop yield in 1935, there was only a slight decrease in the households receiving public assistance, and by August 1936, the total load again included one-fifth of all rural families.

"Areas of Intense Drought Distress, 1930-1936", Francis D. Cronin and Howard W. Beers, Research Bulletin Series V, Number 1, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, Washington, 1937.

"The People of the Drought States". Conrad Taeube

"The People of the Drought States", Conrad Taeuber and Carl C. Taylor, Research Bulletin Series V, Number 2, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, Washington, 1937.
"Relief and Rehabilitation in the Drought Area", Irene Link, Research Bulletin Series V, Number 3, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, Washington, 1937.

Farm Population Decreased During 1936

The number of persons living on farms at the beginning of 1937 was 80,000 less than one year earlier. According to estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, released June 24, 1937, the farm population was 31,729,000 on January 1, 1937, compared with 31,809,000 one year earlier and 31,801,000 in 1935. The net loss of 80,000 persons was the first net loss reported since 1929.

It is estimated that during the year 1936, 716,000 babies were born to farm women and 349,000 farm residents died. The net migration from farms to towns and cities was 447,000 persons; 1,166,000 moved from farms to villages, towns, and cities, and 719,000 moved to farms. The most important single factor affecting the farm population during 1936 was the drought. Decreases in the drought area were larger than elsewhere. The Pacific Coast States reported increases due to migration much of which came from the drought States.

Births Decrease -- Deaths Increase

The Division of Vital Statistics of the Bureau of the Census has released provisional birth and death figures for 1936. Accordingly the national birth rate dropped in 1936 for the second consecutive year, and was only a tenth of a point above the all-time low established in 1933.

There were 2,136,059 births registered in the United States last year, resulting in a birth rate of 16.6 live births per 1,000 estimated population. The all-time low established in 1933 was 16.5 In 1934 the rate rose to 17.1 but declined in 1935 to 16.9.

The birth rate in 31 states in 1936 was lower than that reported in 1935, 3 states showed no change, and 14 states and the District of Columbia reported a slight increase. New Mexico's rate of 29.0 was the highest in the nation. Arizona, Mississippi, and Utah were closely grouped, with rates of 24.7, 24.6, and 24.3, respectively. New Jersey had the lowest birth rate of the nation, with a mark of 12.4.

The death rate for the United States in 1936 was 11.5 per 1,000 estimated population, the highest since 1929. The rate in 1935 was 10.9. Total deaths in 1936 numbered 1,474,177, an increase of 81,425, or 5.5 percent, over the number reported for the previous year.

The lowest state death rate in the country was recorded for North Dakota, with 8.0 deaths per 1,000 estimated population. South Dakota was next lowest, with a rate of 8.7. Other states with low rates were: Arkansas, 9.2; Oklahoma, 9.2; and Utah, 9.9. Arizona's rate of 15.5 was the highest. Following closely were District of Columbia with 14.7 and Nevada with 14.4 deaths per 1,000 estimated population. Death rates of several other states for 1936 were: California, 12.5; Illinois, 11.7; Massachusetts, 11.6; New Jersey, 10.4; New York, 11.9; and Pennsylvania, 11.1 per 1,000.

The provisional infant mortality rate (number of deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births) for 1936 was 56.9, compared with 55.7 for 1935.

Age and Education of Farm Laborers

Farm laborers are a comparatively young occupational group. In a recent survey in 11 States, more than one-third of the farm laborers who were interviewed were between 20 and 29 years of age and two-thirds were less than 40 years old. In areas where relatively small numbers of laborers are hired per farm, the farm laborers tend to be younger than elsewhere - many of them being farm boys who worked off the home farm for only short periods. The farm laborers found in a mountain county in Tennessee, an area of very little hiring, were younger than any others found in this survey, older farm laborers being more numerous in the areas where much farm labor is employed. The Mexican farm laborers in a cotton county in Texas were older than the average. One-third of the white farm laborers in California were over 50 years of age; more than one-third of the Oriental farm laborers in that State were between 50 and 59 years old and 13 percent were 60 or over.

The schooling of farm laborers varied greatly from one part of the country to another. Most of the laborers in the Middle West had completed elementary school, but in the Southern States comparatively few farm laborers had completed the eighth grade. In Texas, only one-tenth of the farm laborers surveyed had gone beyond the fourth grade, but in Iowa two-fifths had gone beyond the eighth grade. Mexican farm laborers had the least education of any group contacted; one-third of them reported that they had no schooling at all--one-third of this group was American born. Negro farm workers had less education than white workers, but the Orientals of California reported no handicap in this respect.

For the younger men in the Northern States, farm labor is frequently only a temporary occupation, a stepping stone to something else. However, for the older men, particularly in the South and West, agricultural labor is the principal source of livelihood now and in the future, some of them having been tenants or owners in the past. In the Southern States, the shift from cropper to farm laborer or vice versa was frequently found.

Seasonal Distribution of Farm Workers in New Jersey

The farm labor survey on 2,025 farms in Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Monmouth counties in New Jersey, under the direction of J. C. Folsom, reveals seasonal changes in the number of farm family members employed, and especially in the number of hired laborers. Farm operators worked most steadily, 98 percent of them being engaged in agriculture throughout the year. The number of family members working increased by one-third from the first week in January to the first week in July. Prior to the closing of the schools in June, the increase was slow. From that time until the first week in July, the number of family members working increased rapidly and remained at a high level until the beginning of school in September.

482

The number of hired farm laborers fluctuated much more than did the number of family members working. During the second week in August, there were more than three times as many hired laborers than during the first week in January. Employment of hired laborers changed little before March, but increased steadily into August. After that, the number decreased more rapidly than it had increased.

The number of farmers hiring farm laborers fluctuated much less than did the number of laborers hired, and as a corollary, the average number of laborers per farm hiring rose from 1.7 to 3.4. Dairy and general farmers showed a relatively steady labor demand during the year; truck farms, however, reported wide fluctuations. The data emphasize the unsteadiness of employment for a large proportion of farm laborers working during the summer, and the necessity for other employment, if possible, during much of the year.

Persons Working and Farmers Using Help in Three New Jersey Counties, 1935

First quarter	<u>Number c</u>	Number of Farmers Employing			
	Farm Operators	Family Members	Hired Laborers	Family Members	Hired Laborers
January	1995	1068	924	766	539
April	2006	1182	1575	824	780
July	2009	1398	2743	895	915
October	2004	1171	2189	816	798

Number of Farmers Using:

	Family Help	Hired Labor
At no time	1122	959
At <u>no</u> time		
At some time	903	1066
In 1st quarter of January	766	53 9
In quarter of month of		
maximum employment	895	926

Farmers using neither family nor hired labor

Migratory Labor

The Works Progress Administration has recently completed an analysis of work histories and itineraries of 500 unattached migratory-casual workers registered for relief in transient bureaus in 1933 and 1934 in 13 cities, three-fifths of them coming from Seattle, Denver, Memphis, and Minneapolis. The workers were divided into the following three groups for comparison as to migration, employment, and personal characteristics: (1) agricultural, (2) industrial, (3) a combination of the two occupations.

The bulletin contains a series of maps showing the patterns of travel during employment of the workers of the three groups who specialize in harvesting special crops or who are employed in industry. Charts and tables present periods of seasonal activity, migration, and idleness for the three groups giving the major types of workers within these groups. Attitudes of the workers, as well as occupational, physical, and temperamental characteristics of the workers are revealed in the personal histories included in the bulletin.

It was found that agricultural casual workers are less mobile and more regular in their work than are the other two groups. Jobs in agriculture were the shortest, the average for the study being about 2 months. Over three-fourths of the total 500 workers held only 1, 2, or 3 jobs in each of the years 1933 and 1934.

The median length of the migratory period was 41 weeks and usually over half of this time was spent in employment. The off-season period is longest for agricultural workers, averaging 13 weeks. The unattached agricultural workers are found most frequently in work connected with cotton, fruit, sugar beets, and grain, in general farm work, and in work having to do with vegetables and berries.

Seasonal activity for all three groups is at its height from May to September and in a slump the rest of the year, indicating the difficulty of dovetailing jobs to prevent off-season idleness.

"The Migratory-Casual Worker", by John N. Webb, Res. Monograph VII, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., Washington, D. C., 1937.

Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas

Aggregate expenditures for four major types of relief (general and veterans, social security classes, Resettlement emergency grants, and private assistance) continued the upward trend through November and December 1936, and into January 1937 for the seventh consecutive month. Three-fifths of the aggregate November relief expenditures were for social security classes. The increase of 5.2 percent between October and November in expenditures for these classes was smaller than that recorded for any preceding month of the year. The rise in expenditures for November and December was accompanied by a 10 percent increase in the number of cases aided, while there was a 23 percent increase in the number of cases during the December 1936—January 1937 period.

In January 1937, aggregate relief expenditures were 62 percent above similar expenditures for January 1936, while the number of cases aided was 41 percent above the January 1936 case load.

The index of aggregate expenditures for the four types of relief in sample rural and town areas in January 1932, based on the average monthly aggregate expenditures for the year July 1935—June 1936, was 27.7. Despite a rapid increase in unemployment and a concomitant rise in relief needs, the monthly index of aggregate expenditures remained fairly constant from January through September 1932. In October the

index was 36.3. During the succeeding 6 months, the curve of expenditures rose steadily, and dropped in May 1933 to an index of 74.4.

In the latter part of May 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was created to meet increasing relief needs. The index of aggregate rural and town relief expenditures dropped slightly in June, but rose in July. From July the trend was steadily upward and in November the index stood at 102.1. Early in November 1933, the Civil Works Administration, designed to provide jobs for the unemployed, was created and as a result, the curve of aggregate expenditures for relief in the sample areas declined during the period the program was in operation. Reflecting the closing of C. W. A., the index of aggregate relief expenditures rose in March. From March the curve of aggregate expenditures for relief rose steadily, reaching 224.8 in January 1935, the peak month between January 1932 and December 1936. From February 1935 through June 1936 there was a steady downward trend in aggregate relief expenditures. After July 1935, the decrease was due in a large measure to the activities of the Works Progress Administration. After June 1936, aggregate relief expenditures increased steadily until December 1936, when the index stood at 108.1, the increase being due in a large measure to the expansion of the Social Security Program.

Aggregate expenditures for four major forms of relief in the sample rural and town areas decreased 4.8 percent between January and February 1937, declining for the first time since June 1936. The number of cases aided decreased 4.5 percent. This decrease was due almost entirely to the curtailment of Resettlement emergency grants.

In January 1935, when rural and town relief expenditures for four major forms of relief reached a peak of \$45,900,000, general public assistance constituted 95 percent of the total. Beginning in April 1935, expenditures for general public assistance declined as assistance to the social security classes increased. By July 1936, assistance to the social security classes accounted for the major part of the estimated expenditures of \$14,000,000 for the four types of relief in rural and town areas.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Rural Section, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration. (Oct. 1936-Feb. 1937 and Summary of years 1932-1936)

Rural Relief and Rehabilitation

"Farmers on Relief and Rehabilitation" is based on a study of the relief case records of about 53,000 farm operators and farm laborer families in 300 counties, receiving relief grants or rehabilitation advances in June 1935. The counties were representative of 30 States and of 9 agricultural areas, and the families studied are believed to be typical of all farm families on relief in the same States and areas.

The report cited farming on poor land, excess birth rates in poor land areas, overcropping and other soil erosive practices, the

small size of farms in areas where only large-scale methods are profitable, the one-crop system, the tenancy system especially as found in the South, overcapitalization of farms in boom years, the decline of mining, lumbering, and other rural industries, and the low wages paid to farm laborers as contributing to the dependency of farm families.

Farm families on relief were concentrated in drought and poor land areas. More than half of the farm families receiving aid in June 1935 were located in 14 States which contained only one-fourth of all farms in the United States. New Mexico and South Dakota had the heaviest relief loads, with about one-third of their farmers receiving aid. Next in order were North Dakota, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kentucky, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Wyoming with from 10 to 27 percent of their farmers on relief or rehabilitation rolls. In the country as a whole, the proportion of all farmers on relief or rehabilitation averaged 9 percent.

The concentration of relief in these States primarily reflects the effects of the 1934 drought and the long-standing ills of the Appalachian-Ozark Area with its poor soil and abandoned industries.

Improvement in general economic conditions in 1935 failed to reach many of the farmers on relief or was not sufficient to offset the effects of the 1934 drought and other factors causing rural distress. Although the number of farm operator families receiving Federal assistance dropped from 685,000 in February 1935 to 382,000 in October 1935, many of those who had left the relief rolls during the farm season had to reapply for aid in the last months of the year and December rolls showed an increase over October.

More than 200,000 farm operator families were accepted for aid by F.E.R.A. agencies alone between June 30, 1935 and January 1, 1936, and 4 out of 5 of these were former relief cases returning to the rolls. Crop failure and loss of livestock were the reasons most frequently reported for applying for relief. Loss of earnings from employment was the second most important reason given — seasonal employment from which farmers pieced out their farm income had come to an end, or earnings were so low that supplementary relief was required.

Other families came on relief who had been existing on savings for some time and listed exhaustion of these resources as their reason for applying. Increased needs with the approach of winter, loss of assistance from relatives and friends, failure of landlords to continue advances to croppers after the cotton harvest, appropriation of crop returns by creditors, and destruction of property by local floods were other reasons for opening of relief cases.

Most of the farmers on relief were tenants. In every area there were proportionately more tenant farmers than farm owners on relief, and in both the Eastern and Western Cotton Areas there were proportionately more sharecroppers than other types of tenants on relief and rehabilitation rolls.

12. T.I.N.D. HOCTVICLES July 1, 1901.

A striking finding was the small size of acreages operated by farmers on relief. Among farm owners the acreages operated by those on relief were less than one-third of the average size of all owner-operated farms in the areas. Farms of tenants on relief were also much smaller than the average tenant farm. At the same time the farmers on relief had larger families to support than did those in the general farm population.

Most of the farm laborers studied were unemployed and many of them had moved from the open country to the villages in search of better opportunities for employment or relief. Their usual low earnings were reflected in the fact that they had remained off relief for only 3 months on the average after losing their last farm labor jobs.

While unemployed farm laborers or displaced tenants were leaving the country for the villages in some areas, a back-to-the-land movement was taking place in the regions of poorest soil - the Appalachian-Ozark and Lake States Cut-Over Areas. Unemployed nonfarm workers drifted back to the land and attempted unsuccessfully to make a living as farmers.

"Guidance out of these areas must take the form of an intensive search for areas of opportunity wherever they exist, or can be created. The advice of the agricultural expert should be substituted for that of the speculator in worthless and semi-worthless farm lands."

"Farmers on Relief and Rehabilitation", Berta Asch and A. R. Mangus, Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, Research Monograph VIII, 1937.

Rural Rehabilitation in Wyoming

Rural distress was acute in southeastern Wyoming (as typified by Goshen County) in 1935 since crops on non-irrigated farms in 1934 had been almost a complete failure, following three years of low crop yields. This is the last of a series of 13 reports which were the outcome of a survey initiated to study the effects of drought and future prospects of farmers in drought areas.

Gross cash income from irrigated farms in Goshen County was 72 percent of normal in 1934, while that from non-irrigated farms was only 59 percent of normal. Farmers operating irrigated farms, regardless of their size, usually received a reasonable income.

Two-thirds of the farmers applying for government aid, were located in non-irrigated sections of the county, and there was a concentration of both relief and rehabilitation clients in that part of the county where small farms predominated.

A return of most of the eroded acreage in the county to grass, encouragement of strip farming, and an increase in livestock numbers have been suggested as important aspects of a rehabilitation program for Goshen County.

"Natural and Economic Factors Affecting Rural Rehabilitation in Southeastern Wyoming (as typified by Goshen County)", H. L. Stewart. Preliminary Report, Resettlement Administration, Research Bulletin K-13, March 1937.

Unemployment Relief in Arizona

Unemployment relief in Arizona for the period from October 1, 1932 to December 31, 1936 cost \$37,242,000. This included expenditures made under the programs of the R.F.C., E.R.A., C.W.A., and State Board of Public Welfare; and also included wages paid to relief persons under the Works Program. A special analysis was made of relief expenditures that were administered by counties and the total sum spent was averaged by counties on a per capita basis using the 1930 population figures.

It appears that with the first organization of public unemployment relief, those who had no usual occupation, the "unemployables" and those in a condition of natural dependency, composed the greater numbers that were granted relief. Then the heads of laborer households in mining camps and in agriculture, as well as white collar workers in cities, began to crowd the welfare offices. Finally, teachers, nurses and small operators were to be found among relief persons. As the relief rolls became larger, the relief population more nearly resembled the general population as to age, sex proportion, usual occupation, composition of household and marital status. Conversely, as the relief rolls were reduced, relief population retained an undue proportion of aged persons, of persons without a usual occupation, of one-person households and of broken households, and therefore became less and less like the general population.

During 1935 and 1936, relief became a supplement rather than a substitute for private employment. Individual initiative, employment services, welfare placement departments, and rural rehabilitation have contributed to the removal of relief households from the rolls and the reestablishment of the status of self-supporting. Categorical assistance now provides for many cases formerly included under general relief. The Federal Works Program has taken up the differences between the numbers available for jobs and the numbers employed in private industry.

"Unemployment Relief in Arizona from October 1, 1932 Through December 31, 1936 With a Special Analysis of Rural Relief Households", by E. D. Tetreau, June 1937, Univ. of Ariz. Tucson.

Connecticut Rural Relief Families

The percentage of the total population on relief in the 38 sample towns varied during 1935 from 7.9 percent in January to 4.7 percent in December, which is lower than for the State as a whole or for the United States. The rural relief population tended to be younger than either the total rural or the general population of Connecticut, an over-representation being found of children under 20 years of age and an under-representation of persons 35 to 44 years of age.

The majority of family heads had only grade school education, and children of relief families tended to start school later and to leave school earlier than children of non-relief families. Nine out of every

ten relief families contained one or more employable persons, and almost one out of every six dependents among rural relief families was an employable without a job.

The time spent on relief rolls by the average family was 10.9 months out of a possible maximum of 32 months; 7 percent were on relief less than one month and 6 percent were on for the entire period of 31 to 32 months.

"Rural Families on Relief", by N. L. Whetten, H. D. Darling, W. C. McKain, and R. F. Field, Bull. No. 215, Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta., Storrs, Conn., January 1937.

Relief in Nebraska

The Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Nebras-ka has released a bulletin describing relief activities from 1927 to 1934 in 7 Nebraska counties; the names of the counties, however, are not given. With the advent of New Deal agencies, relief expenditures have increased and professional social workers have achieved a better standing in the communities. Itemized relief expenditures of county and many other relief agencies are given for the seven counties.

"A Study of Relief Activities in Seven Nebraska Counties, 1927-1934", by L. H. Stott, Res. Bull. No. 89, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Neb., Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1937.

South Dakota Relief Studies

The South Dakota State College has released a series of bulletins dealing with relief in that State. "A Graphic Summary of Relief Trends in South Dakota, 1930 to 1935" discusses the problem of relief expenditures and the background causes of the relief status of such a large proportion of South Dakota people. Maps are presented to show the distribution of relief monies expended by various state and national agencies.

The bulletin dealing with "Public and Private Assistance" shows the trends of assistance extended to households in 9 sample counties between January 1, 1936 and March 31, 1937. The third bulletin listed below contains data, revealed through graphs and tables, showing that the operators of farms under average in size had a greater tendency to have received special aid than did operators of farms of average or above average size. This study covers 4 counties.

"A Graphic Summary of Relief Trends in South Dakota, 1930 to 1935", by W. F. Kumlien, S. D. State College Brookings, S. D., June 1937.

"Public and Private Assistance Extended to Households in Rural and Town Areas in South Dakota, January 1, 1936 to March 31, 1937", S. D. State College, Brookings, S. D., May 26, 1937. (Mimeo.)

"The Association of Relief Status of the Farm Operators in South Dakota With the Size of Farm Operated and With Various Personal Characteristics of the Farm Operators, 1935" Zetta E. Bankert, S. D. State College, Brookings, S. D., June 1937. (Mimeo.)

Rural Youth

Ninety-eight percent of the 758 unmarried young men and women studied in Tompkins County, N. Y., who were out of school and unemployed were dependent on their families for support. Eight out of ten of them wanted full-time employment. Over three-fourths of them have had some high school or college training, those out of school averaging 2 years of high school work. This sample is about 26 percent of all unmarried young people in this age group, averaging 20 years of age, in the rural areas of the county.

The principal occupations of the men not in school are: farming, skilled mechanical work, and unskilled labor; for the women they are: homemaking, teaching, office clerkships, and stenography. Reading of newspapers, magazines, and books, in order of their importance, is their chief leisure time activity.

The young men are interested in sports and other outdoor activities, while the young women prefer indoor social recreation. The home is the chief center, but occasionally the school, church, Grange, or 4-H Club play a role in fostering their recreational interests. However, 56 percent of the men and 46 percent of the women hold no membership in any formal organization. A large proportion expressed a desire for travel and further education if ways and means were available.

"The families represented in this study do not consciously try to provide social activities for the members of the family as a group, for 85 percent of the young people say that no conscious effort is made in the home to carry on social activities as a group. Organizations could well stimulate this and provide help."

"Rural Youth: Activities, Interests, and Problems. II. Unmarried Young Men and Women, 15 to 29 years of Age", by W. A. Anderson, Bull. No. 661, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, N. Y., January 1937.

Community Size and Marital Status

The proportion of persons 15 years of age or over who are married tends to decrease with the size of the community, and the same trend is found in the proportion of such persons who have ever been married, i.e. married, widowed, or divorced. The number of single persons, however, increases with the size of the community, as does the age at marriage of white persons, with the exception of males on farms and in suburban cities of 25,000 to 50,000 population. The proportion of broken homes also increases with the size of the community.

The phenomena of marital status in incorporated villages were found to be more like those in small cities than those for rural farm or rural non-farm population. From the data considered in this study, it seemed that the larger the community, the less favorable was the situation for the family as an institution.

This study is based on special tabulations made from census and other data of persons over 15 years of age who were married, widowed, divorced, and single in various sized communities ranging from rural farm to metropolitan cities of 500,000 or more inhabitants.

"Relation of Size of Community to Marital Status", by Dwight Sanderson, Memoir 200, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, N. Y., Feb. 1937.

Rural Women and W.P.A.

About one-fourth of 553 rural women in Works Progress Administration sewing rooms in 12 Missouri counties reside on farms, the remainder living in villages and towns. Their median age was 41.5 years, the range being from 15 to 78 years.

All but 7 of the 553 women indicated that they were the principal economic heads of their respective families. Less than one-fourth had any schooling beyond the eighth grade and nearly one-third had no formal education beyond the fifth grade. The median number of grades completed was 7.6.

About 40 percent of the women were married and living with their husbands, 12 percent were single, and the remaining 48 percent were widowed, divorced, separated, or deserted. Nearly 60 percent of the husbands were permanently sick or otherwise disabled; the others were unemployed.

From this study it would appear that most of these women will be in need of permanent financial assistance, indicating a strong need for a program of rehabilitation, including retraining.

"Rural Women and the Works Progress Program",
A Partial Analysis of Levels of Living, by
E. L. Morgan, J. D. Ensminger, and M. W. Sneed,
Res. Bull. No. 253, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of
Mo., Columbia, Mo., April 1937.

Rural Community Buildings

The circular "Rural Community Buildings" is a practical manual for groups interested in constructing community buildings. The bulletin gives examples of what some Illinois communities have done to provide community centers with new or remodeled buildings, together with suggestions as to schemes for planning and financing, the chief uses to which a community center may be put, and the fundamental principles to be considered in making plans for such a building. Sample designs, floor plans, and a copy of the Illinois law regarding community buildings, together with sample constitutions and by-laws are included.

"Rural Community Buildings", by D. E. Lindstrom, W. A. Foster, and Max G. Fuller, Circular No. 470, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Ill., Urbana, Ill., March 1937.

Granger Homesteads

A social and economic study of a resettlement project, Granger Homesteads in Iowa, including the year 1933 previous to resettlement and the year 1936 after one year's residence on the project, was made on the basis of personal interviews with the 49 settlers, project records, and general Resettlement Administration and Subsistence Homesteads reports. Incomes, both from the regular occupation of the settlers and from their gardens and small land holdings, were compared with certain living conditions and facilities. Attention was given to the educational program, social and recreational life, cooperative enterprises, and the attitudes of the settlers toward subsistence homesteads and resettlement.

For the year's residence on the project, the value of family living from livestock and land holdings (which average 3.5 acres of cultivable land) was \$85 per household. These same families produced and consumed an average of only \$58 from farms and gardens during 1933 before resettlement, although three were operators of larger holdings.

"A Federal Resettlement Project, Granger Homesteads", by Raymond P. Duggan, Monograph No. 1, School of Social Work, Catholic Univ. of America, Washington, D. C., 1937.

Education Related to Standard of Living

The education level of the adult population of South Dakota has risen progressively since 1915, according to a recent study in which the author attempts to determine the correlation, if any, between the educational level of the population of the State of South Dakota and its standard of living.

Standard of living was measured by the total number of families having radio sets, and farm families having automobiles, bathrooms, electric lights, and telephones. Correlations were also made between wealth and the extent of education and standard of living.

There was a greater relationship between standard of living and financial ability than the former and years of schooling. There was practically no correlation between standard of living and years of schooling among persons of the same amount of wealth. The author states that "...the standard of living of any given county may be predicted with considerable accuracy from the percentage of college graduates in the county."

"The Relationship Between the Extent of Education and the Standard of Living of the People of South Dakota", by Terence C. Donahue, Rockham, S. D., 1936 (thesis presented for M. A. at Ohio State Univ.)

Selectivity of Migration

A study of population migration from farming areas in Kentucky based on the School Census records of 1916 has been made to shed light on the problems of land use in problem areas. The Anderson County data reveal that nearly 30 percent of the youth have remained in the problem area of eroding soil in the Intermediate Bluegrass area known geologically as the Eden Shale, and 35 percent have moved to the adjoining areas of much better soil. About 25 percent have migrated to other Kentucky counties and 10 percent have migrated out of the State. Preliminary analysis of the tabulations on ability to do school work, amount of formal schooling completed, and occupation entered, reveals that the slight selectivity, due to migration, is not large enough to be statistically significant when tested by the standard error of the difference between proportions. A larger percent of the persons, above average and below average in achievement and ability, are moving away from the area than are staying in the area, other states attracting the larger percent of above average in achievement and ability. This area retains a larger percent of the average group in achievement and ability.

A Virginia County Survey

"An Economic and Social Survey of Patrick County, Virginia", made by M. C. Conner and Wm. K. Bing, students in the school of Rural Social Economics, was published recently as a bulletin of the University. The major topics included are: history; natural resources; population trends; towns and neighborhoods; commerce and industry; agriculture; wealth, debt, and taxation; schools and educational trends; health and welfare; and the standard of living, including a summary and an index. This is the 22nd in the series of Virginia County Surveys published to date.

Areas of Minor Civil Divisions

With the cooperation of local agencies in the States which have been working in this field, the Rural Section of the Division of Social Research, W.P.A., has computed (or checked) the areas of townships, or other civil divisions smaller than counties. The data compiled include, by State, county, and minor civil division, land area in square miles and acres, number of acres in farms and percent of total area in farms, total population and population density per square mile. Areas have been computed by planimeter calculations from Bureau of the Census maps of States with minor civil division boundaries. Land in farms and population figures have been taken from the 1930 Census. There will be no general distribution of the work, but a limited number of copies will be available on request for research workers concerned with population problems and related fields.

Rate of Replacement of Males in the Rural-farm Population

Rates of replacement of males 18-65 years of age in the rural-farm population of the United States from 1930 to 1955 have been worked up by the Rural Section of the Division of Social Research, W.P.A. Similar data on a State basis have been computed for the period 1920

to 1935. It is estimated that slightly over 2 males in the rural farm population reach the age of 18 years for every one who dies while between the ages of 18 and 64 or who reaches the age of 65.

EXTENSION REPORTS

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Home Economics Extension

"Home demonstration work can rightly and proudly claim that it has contributed much in bringing about a higher appreciation of home values and a brighter farm outlook." The progress of the expanded home economics work made possible by Bankhead-Jones funds is described in Extension Service Circular No. 256.

With the close of 25 years of special effort toward Extension Service for rural homes, 51 Land Grant colleges and 17 Negro colleges report an off-campus home economics extension faculty of 1,916 county home demonstration agents and assistants. In addition, the home economics extension faculties include 444 state home demonstration leaders, assistants, and home economics specialists with headquarters chiefly at State Agricultural Colleges.

At the time of the Smith-Lever Act, in 1914, there were only 349 county home demonstration agents as compared with 1,916 at the present time. County home demonstration agents are now one-third of the county extension personnel, providing guidance and assistance in girls' 4-H Club work and organizations of women, preliminary education for home demonstration work, also offer a large amount of individual service. There are now 41,504 home demonstration groups with a membership of 950,927.

Extension workers, reducing education to simple terms, must keep the long-time objectives in mind, working for an adequate standard of living for farm people, better health, leisure for cultural things, and the development of rural leadership for improved financial and social conditions.

"The Expansion of Home Economics Extension Work Under the Bankhead-Jones Act", by Madge J. Reese, Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 256, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1937.

Miss Gardner Reports

Miss Ella Gardner reports several interesting experiences which have occurred during field trips this spring. The youth leaders' sessions at the Central States Extension Conference were marked by the experimental spirit with which the programs for young adults are being approached in these States. To meet youth's demand for social affairs and yet not permit their groups to stop there; to make a contribution to the individual's effort to establish himself economically and still not cut in on the family's income; to broaden horizons and add constructively to vocational education seemed to be the objectives of the State workers in this field.

In Pettis County, Missouri, Miss Gardner was privileged, as one of a committee to listen as oldtimers talked over 25 years of county agent work. "Oh yes," they were told, "seed corn was improved in quality. We began to use certified seed. Short horn cattle were introduced and the strain improved. We learned this, that, and the other of economic value but most of all we learned to work together." One woman said, "I've often wondered how we would have gotten through these last eight years without our club and Farm Bureau meetings. We seemed to draw strength and faith from each other." Before the day of visiting was over they were saying with Dr. Seaman Knapp, "And the man grew faster than his crop." The entire committee felt that while the pageant will depict economic advance and sound education in factual fields, its real theme will be a 25 year adventure in better living.

State News

State and county leaders of rural organizations in Wisconsin will participate in their fifth annual summer conference on July 14-16. These leaders will get together to consider the problems of rural social welfare with particular emphasis on rural health and experiences in formulating agricultural policies. There will be a report upon work done on the problem of improving rural educational opportunities, which was the topic for last year's conference.

More and more the Wisconsin State Fair is becoming a place where farm people entertain visitors rather than being entertained by the Midway sideshows. Farm people are exhibiting the results of their leisure-time activities as well as the results of their working hours. The State Fair premium book lists two departments in which these exhibits may be made, the Little Theatre and the Recreation Department. "Exhibits" in the Little Theatre will be limited to musical talent and programs this year. The recreation department will include softball, teams from villages and open country areas, horseshoe players, and dartball teams. For the first time this year, this department includes a section on homemade game equipment with suitable awards.

Twenty-five counties in Illinois have entries in the state chorus festival, which will be held on the evening of August 20 at the State Fair Grounds at Springfield. There will be three features — voice section, dramatization section in which French folk dances will be used, and an orchestra numbering between 100 and 125.

The Illinois young adult conference will be held from August 8 to 14. In this conference, the Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics at the University, and particularly the rural sociology and young adult extension specialists, are cooperating with the Illinois Church Council and its Christian Youth Council and the rural life clubs of the teachers' and denominational colleges of the state, as well as organizations of rural school teachers. The program will be a discussion-lecture-activity program, the theme of which is to be "We Look at Our Problems", the objectives being (1) to develop activities suitable for interest in recreation, (2) to construct physical, ethical, and moral standards for home and community life, (3) to provide an opportunity to study social relationships, and (4) to offer suggestions for promoting

a unity of purpose in young people's programs in a community. Four courses will be offered. They will be (1) on personality adjustments, (2) on community problems, (3) on leadership, and (4) on foundations for Christian homes.

Rural Sociology Extension in Wisconsin

The emphasis placed on extension work in Wisconsin during the year December 1, 1935-December 1, 1936 was on town-country relationships, the principal project being: to develop local and inter-group efficiency, to give opportunity for group expression, to provide wholesome leisure-time activity, cultural development, and group study.

Two full-time Extension Rural Sociologists were added in 1935, and in addition, two regular staff members of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture give part-time as public discussion specialists. Regular staff members also assist in special fields such as music, drama, and athletics. Such interested groups as the following contribute a great deal of assistance: Farm Bureaus, 4-H Clubs, Granges, Mothers' Clubs, P.T.A., and many others.

Five general types of group activity included in the year's program were: (1) organization and program planning, (2) drama and pageantry, (3) public discussion, (4) music, (5) social games and athletics. For this work programs were planned, materials made available, and leaders trained. Program planning seemed to be of increasing interest and importance, as illustrated by the fact that 137 conferences were held and several thousand copies of bulletins sent out.

The Fall of 1936 marked the beginning of the tenth year of dramatic activities in Wisconsin on a county and state-wide basis, and seemed to be more popular than ever. Seven thousand copies of plays or collections of plays were loaned by the Extension Service during this period, 45 percent of which went to rural groups, mostly to 4-H Clubs. Music activities also increased, although more materials were greatly needed for this phase of the program.

The discussion group program which tries to use only local talent and to make the discussions educational, at the same time emphasizing leadership training, needs closer integration with the entire Agricultural Extension Service and adult education agencies, together with good discussion materials.

Social hours, folk games, sports tournaments, carnivals, etc. were planned chiefly through county conferences. Here there was a heavy demand for materials. Eighty percent of the leaders of these activities were women, having had high school training or more. Social recreation was found to be ripe for increased emphasis and in need of competent personnel to lead the way.

"Rural Sociology Extension in Wisconsin" (Dec. 1, 1935 to Dec. 1, 1936), Dept. of Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture, Univ. of Wis., Madison, Wis., and U.S.D.A. cooperating.

DIVISIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Rural Population Conference

A Mid-Western Conference on Rural Population Research, sponsored jointly by the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was held in Columbia, Missouri, April 23 and 24, 1937. Representatives from Colleges of Agriculture in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, and Arkansas were present, as were also representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Social Security Board, the Resettlement Administration, and the Works Progress Administration. The conference was devoted to a discussion of rural population problems under the following headings: Rural Population Migration, Population Composition, and Regional Population Research. The discussion of each topic centered around the following: Need, Objectives, and Scope; Methods; Project Statements; and logical next steps. It is expected that copies of the transcript of the discussion will become available through the office of Professor E. L. Morgan of the University of Missouri, at Columbia. Carl C. Taylor, O. E. Baker, and Conrad Taeuber of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life participated in the program.

Division Notes

On June 16th, O. E. Baker was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, where he had received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1903.

Charles P. Loomis has recently been given a Grant-in-Aid by the Social Science Research Council, to be used to complete the translation of Ferdinand Tönnies' Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft, and for an analysis of the author's perspective as related to the peculiar setting or background of sociological theory influencing it.

Articles in the April issue of "The Agricultural Situation" include:

"Workmen's Compensation Acts and Agricultural
Laborers", by J. C. Folsom. (pp. 9-10)

"Farm Security", I-Introduction, by A. G. Black,
(the first of a series on this subject) (pp. 10-11)

"Population Changes in Southern States", by
Carl C. Taylor. (pp. 17-19)

"Rural Literature: 1936", II Essays and Sketches,
by Caroline B. Sherman. (pp. 19-20)

O. E. Baker has written two articles entitled, "The Church and the Rural Youth" and "Will More or Fewer People Live on the Land", which appear in the first and second series of "Catholic Rural Life Objectives", a series of Discussions on Some Elements of Major Importance in the Philosophy of Agrarianism. These bulletins are published by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 240 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

State Notes

The Colorado State College announces the June publication of a study of Spanish-speaking beet workers who have been on relief, under the title, "Beet Workers on Relief". A study is also being made of German-Russian population in Colorado, stressing the factors of cultural assimilation and conflict, with the accompanying maladjustments. The latter study is being carried on by C. H. Becker.

T. Lynn Smith has been appointed Head of the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University. Dean Fred C. Frey, who has been heading up the department, will continue his teaching in Sociology. Vernon J. Parenton has been appointed assistant in Rural Sociology at the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Following the death of Professor A. M. Hulbert, Asst. Director of Extension in New Jersey, Howard W. Beers, Assoc. Professor of Rural Sociology at Rutgers University and Extension Rural Sociologist, has been asked to serve as Acting State Leader of Agricultural 4-H Club work.

The Economics Division of the Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station are initiating a cooperative economic and social study of the Stillwater Creek watershed in Payne County and the Pecan Creek watershed in Muskogee County. This will be a reorganization and continuation of the Stillwater Creek study begun in the Spring of 1934.

The Pennsylvania State College announces plans for the second Annual Country Life Conference to be held at Hamilton, Pennsylvania, August 23-26. Leaders of the Grange, Rural P.T.A.'s, Rural Church, Agricultural Extension, Teachers' Colleges, F.F.A., Farm Women's Societies, youth groups, Farmers' Clubs, Cooperatives, and others will meet to consider "Leadership in Rural Development" and the coordination of the several rural life activity programs throughout the state. The topics will be presented by state and national leaders through the lecture and discussion methods.

Leland B. Tate, who for the past two years has been connected with the School of Rural Social Economics, University of Virginia, as Instructor in Rural Sociology, Associate Editor of the University "News Letter", and Director of Virginia County Surveys, has been appointed Associate Professor of Rural Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, for the coming year. He will have charge of the resident teaching in rural sociology within the Department of Agriculture, Economics and Rural Sociology at V.P.I. and will retain a cooperative arrangement with the University to teach occasional extension courses in rural sociology for outside groups of public school teachers and others interested. Mr. William G. Poindexter, Jr. will take Dr. Tate's position at the University.

The Institute of Public Affairs will hold its eleventh Annual Session at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, July 4 through

July 17. The general topic will be "International Cooperation for World Peace and Collective Security", three principal speakers leading the discussions each of the two weeks. Round Table conferences will be held during the afternoons.

The sixteenth Annual Rural Leadership Summer School at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture was held from June 28th to July 9th at Madison, under the direction of Prof. J. H. Kolb.

The Division has received word of the following changes in location of research workers and instructors for the coming year: -- J. Douglas Ensminger, now in Social Research in the Resettlement Administration, and Lawrence S. Bee, now graduate assistant in Sociology at Iowa State College, to Cornell University as graduate assistants; William H. Sewell, Jr., now instructor in Sociology at the University of Minnesota, to Oklahoma A. & M. College as Assistant Professor of Sociology; Carl F. Reuss, from the University of Virginia, where he recently received his Ph.D. degree, to the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, at Pullman, as Assistant in Rural Sociology; Harold Templeton of Ames, Iowa, to the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois as rural sociologist; Parker Mauldin from the University of Virginia to the University of Tennessee as full-time instructor in rural social economics; Wm. M. Smith, Jr., who has been graduate assistant at Cornell University for the past two years has been made extension instructor there and will devote his time to recreation activities.

SPECIAL ITEMS

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Michigan Census Publications

The State Emergency Relief Commission, Lansing, Michigan, is continuing a meries of 10 publications begun last year, under the general title of "Michigan Census of Population and Unemployment", (First Series). The Census on which these bulletins are based was taken as of January 14, 1935. Five hundred twenty thousand schedules, containing the names of over 1,966,000 persons, were taken, based on a random sampling procedure. The tabulation and analysis was done by the Michigan W.P.A.

Results are presented by 5 population classes, namely:

- (1) First class cities, of over 40,000 inhabitants;
- (2) Second class cities, of 3,000 to 40,000 inhabitants;
- (3) Towns and villages, under 3,000 population (onefifth of the 400 of these were used);
- (4) Metropolitan townships (townships immediately adjacent to each of the first class cities); and
- (5) Rural areas (one-fifth of the townships of pre-dominantly open country type, selected at random).

The first of the bulletins to be released in 1937 is No. 4, entitled "Social-Economic Occupational Classification of Workers in

Selected Industries", issued in March. The information given here is by occupation for both sexes for the state total, and considerable attention is given to agriculture under the two categories: "Agricultural Proprietors and Operators" and "Agricultural Laborers".

The titles of the other releases in this series are:

- No. 1 "Age, Sex, and Employment Status of Gainful Workers in 5 Types of Communities", July 1936.
- No. 2 "Age, Sex, and Employment Status of Gainful Workers in Cities of More than 3,000 Inhabitants", Oct. 1936.
- No. 3 "Industrial Classification of Unemployed and Gainfully Employed Workers", Dec. 1936.
- No. 4 "Social Economic Occupational Classification of Workers in Selected Industries", March 1937.
- No. 5 "Duration of Unemployment of Workers Seeking Reemployment", March 1937.
- No. 6 "Total Income During 1934 of Gainful Workers", March 1937.
- No. 7 "Education of Gainful Workers", March 1937.
- No. 8 "Geographic and Occupational Mobility of Gainful Workers", April 1937.
- No. 9 "Age and Industry of Gainful Workers", April 1937.
- No.10 "Employment Status of Persons 15-29 Years of Age", April 1937.

Rural Vital Statistics

Students of Rural Population have contended for many years that the customary procedure for reporting as rural only those births and deaths which took place in rural territory made for an understatement of the number of rural births and deaths. Although rural birth rates are normally higher than urban rates, it was asserted that some rural women went to cities to give birth to their children and that these should properly be counted as rural births. In the returns for 1935 the Census Bureau is reporting births and deaths in two ways - the one classifies them in the usual way according to place of occurrence the other classifies births according to the residence of the mother, and deaths according to the residence of the decedent. All places of 10,000 and over are classified as urban, the remainder as rural. Data from 36 states for 1935 indicate that the number of rural births was increased from 633,240 to 687,368 or by 8.5 percent when the residence of the mother is taken into account. The number of rural deaths increased from 403,965 to 423,548 or by 4.8 percent when classified according to place of residence of the decedent rather than place of death.

Rural areas actually contribute a larger share of the births and of the national increase than is shown by the usual manner of presenting these statistics. Undoubtedly this is also true of the years preceding 1935.

Fewer Rural Children Born in Hospitals

Only about one-fifth as large a proportion of rural as of urban babies were born in hospitals in 1935, according to Vital Statistics reports for 35 states. In the rural areas 13.7 percent of all births occurred in hospitals, whereas in the urban areas 67.8 percent of all births occurred in hospitals. The fact that some rural women went to urban hospitals to give birth to children would not seriously affect these differences.

However, when the proportion of births attended by a physician is compared, the rural areas are more nearly equal to the cities. Midwives more frequently attend rural than urban births. Only 12.3 percent of all rural births reported a midwife in attendance. The percentage varies considerably from one part of the country to another. It is especially high in some of the Southern States. In Mississippi, for example, more than one-half of all rural births reported a midwife in attendance. The percentages for the 35 states from which reports are available is given below.

Births Classified by Person	in	Attendanc	e 1935
		: Perc	entages
Person in Attendance		: Rural*	: Urban*
Physician in hospital		13.7	67.8
Physician not in hospital		72.5	29.4
Total Physician		86.2	97.2
Midwife		12.3	2.7
Other		1.5	0.1
Total		100.0	100.0

^{*} Rural - All places with population less than 10,000. Urban - Includes all places of 10,000 or over.

The Age Composition of the Farm Population, January 1, 1935

According to estimates recently completed, the age composition of the farm population on January 1, 1930 and 1935 was as follows:

	. 19	1930		935
Age		Percent	: Number	
	: 000 <u>'s</u> :		: 000's	
0 - 4	3,343	11.1	3,329	10.5
5 - 14	7,530	25.0	6,913	21.7
15 - 39	11,139	36.9	12,614	39.7
40 - 64	6,604	21.9	7,118	22.4
65 and over	1,553	5.1	1,827	5.7
Total	30,169	100.0	31,801	100.0

Minnesota Rural Law Enforcement

State-wide agencies, such as the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (29 men) and the Motor Patrol of the State Highway Department (109 men), which constitute 5.7 percent of the state total engaged in police work, automatically but not specifically are benefitting rural areas and villages. This is one of the conclusions reached by the Regents' Examining Committee on the Police Training Project in its Final Report entitled, "Survey of Police Training".

Of a total of about 2,414 men in the Minnesota police establishment, about 200 are sheriffs of counties and their deputies, devoting only 30 to 35 percent of their time to police activities, although most major crimes fall within their jurisdiction. In addition, there are about 600 to 700 elective and appointive police officers in places under 1,000 population not giving full time. There are also about 2,500 town constables in 1.929 organized towns, who receive no pay other than the limited fees from their routine duties.

On the whole, police equipment is very meager and salaries of police employees are low, ranging from \$50 to \$150 per month. There are 569 cities and villages under 1,000 population many of which have no full-time police officer, but rely on the village constable plan of securing local law enforcement.

The sheriff is often found to be more important than the Chief of Police in the prevention and investigation of major crimes. Out of 714 reports of major offenses during 1931, 447 were made by Minnesota sheriffs and only 267 by Chiefs of Police. Sheriffs cover about 98 percent of the surface area of the state and about 37 percent of the population. Their average salary, which is supplemented by annual fees, is nearly \$146 per month, or \$1,747 per year.

European Cooperatives

The "Report of The Inquiry on Cooperative Enterprise in Europe, 1937" describes the different kinds of cooperatives found in 10 countries in Europe, dealing chiefly with consumer cooperatives, and gives the impressions and opinions of each member of the six-man Commission.

The introductory findings of the report indicate that the fundamental objectives of European cooperatives are much the same, but the aims and policies differ in the various countries visited. In England and Scotland, for example, the aim is the ultimate abolition of private profit, while in Sweden, cooperation aims simply to act as a price yardstick, to do enough business to insure fair prices to consumers, believing that competition is better than a cooperative monopoly.

In Sweden, cooperatives are composed of urban workers, farmers, and white-collar employees, whereas in Denmark they are mostly farmers. Cooperators in Finland are of two groups, farmers and urban workers. In Switzerland, however, where cooperation is more active in the retail

field and cooperates with private enterprise, it is less a class movement than in any other country. English and Scottish consumer cooperatives are not getting along well with the farmers, whereas joint ownership of processing plants seems to have solved this problem in Switzerland. In Sweden, where there is "peace on the farm front", the consumer cooperatives do the retailing and farm cooperatives the processing.

According to one member of the Commission, the cooperatives in Europe are not unique and, barring language difficulties, their problems, aims, and viewpoints can be understood in the United States. He feels that when the possibilities of consumer cooperation in this country are considered, the conditions which have made it possible in Europe should be thoroughly noted. Some of these conditions are: inefficient retail distribution; class loyalty where workers as a group are not mobile or migratory; strong motive of thrift; "big business", "trust-busting" nature of cooperatives. Believing that consumer cooperation is not a highway to Utopia, he states, "It developed in Europe because it served an economic need. It will develop in the United States to the extent that it can serve an economic need."

Another member of the Commission sees in European consumer cooperation not only successful big business but a religion, a Utopia, with its own ideology and vocabulary. He says that in theory it is not a class movement, that consumers are a universal class, but that in practice, in most countries, the movement is dominated by urban workers as a class. He believes that success of consumer cooperation in America comparable to that in Europe will depend on its ability to establish itself in the retail field in a substantial way. He mentions these possible functions of cooperation in American economic life: accumulation of interest-free capital, encouragement of thrift, influence for fair prices, development of stability because of part ownership of a business enterprise. He says, "I do not believe that consumer cooperation will replace private business in the United States. Neither do I believe that private business can stop the development of consumer cooperation here. But honest competition between the two will be good for both, and for the consumer."

Part I of the Report comprises 14 chapters of general discussion of the various phases of cooperation, chapter XIII of which is devoted to "Consumer Cooperatives in Agriculture". Part II contains 6 independent expressions of opinion from members of the Commission, and Part III is devoted to discussions by separate countries. Appendixes contain supplementary material including histories of the development of cooperation in the different countries, special kinds of cooperatives, statistical information, tables and graphic material (by separate countries), and a list of cooperative associations by country.

"Report of the Inquiry on Cooperative Enterprise in Europe, 1937", Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937.

The Population Problem in Egypt

According to a thesis by Wendell Cleland, Egypt has the highest birth and death rates in the world and is growing rapidly, its population now exceeding 15,000,000 or twice the estimated population of Ancient Egypt. Its population density is 1,000 people per square mile, or 5 persons for every 2 acres of cultivable land. Overpopulation is especially serious because of the slight industrial development and limited natural resources. Thirteen million peasants suffer almost universally from eye disease, malnutrition, undernourishment, and other diseases. The patriotic, nationalistic-minded Egyptian official, however, dreams of a population of 30,000,000.

Recent Statistical Releases

Special Report - U. S. Census of Agriculture: 1935, entitled "A Summary of Farm Tenure" by Divisions and States, containing 5 tables, is now available.

The Bureau of the Census has released the following: "Occupational Trends in the United States: 1870 to 1930" - issued June 7, 1937. (by 10-yr. periods for gainful workers 16 yrs. old and over); "State and Special Censuses Since 1930" - issued May 29, 1937; (Fla., Kans., Mass., R. I., and S. D.), giving the population of these states and urban places of 10,000 inhabitants or more as shown by State or special censuses; and Vital Statistics-Special Reports - "Provisional Mortality Statistics for 1936" - Vol. 3, No. 22, June 7, 1937; "Provisional Summary of Natality Statistics for 1936" - Vol. 3, No. 24, June 16, 1937; and "Number of Live Births in Cities and in Rural Areas, By Race and By Person in Attendance, 1935" - Vol. 3, No. 27, June 19, 1937.

The Social Security Board, Div. of Public Assistance Statistics, has issued "Public Assistance Monthly Statistics for the United States", Vol. II, No. 3, March 1937.

Vol. III of the Census of Agriculture - "General Report, Statistics by Subjects" has recently been released. It includes: farms by acreage and value; size of farms; color and tenure of farm operator; population; dwellings; labor on farm, years on farm, and part-time work off farm; livestock and livestock products; field crops; fruits; and vegetables.

The Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada, has published a bulletin in connection with the 1936 Census of the Prairie Provinces" (the quinquennial census) giving the population by geographic divisions of these provinces and also a statement of rural and urban populations by census divisions. The final compilations of both population and agriculture will be ready in the near future. The Social Analysis Branch of the Dominion Bureau has nearly completed a project for the compilation and publication of official life tables for Canada and its various geographical divisions (provinces, zones, etc.). A series of tables with special reference to earnings, employment, dependents, etc. will be included.

Rural Sociology Journal

Articles to be found in the June issue of "Rural Sociology" are:

In addition, there are News Notes and Announcements, reviews of current bulletins and books, and a list of Books Received.

Adult Education

The Public Affairs Committee, cooperating with the Public Forum Project of the Office of Education and the American Library Association, is a non-partisan, non-commercial agency interested in adult education. The Committee is engaged in the publication of "Public Affairs Pamphlets", together with indexes to other inexpensive pamphlets on social, economic, political, and international affairs. The pamphlets contain information on subjects of nation-wide interest, some of the titles in the new series being: "Income and Economic Progress", "Labor and the New Deal", "Security or the Dole?", "The Supreme Court and the Constitution", and "This Question of Relief". The indexes or supplements (released by the Office of Education) give a list of publishers, indexes of authors, general subjects, titles, and a biblicgraphy of Public Affairs Pamphlets with the name of the organization responsible for publication. The supplement is useful to an individual or group desiring additional information on some particular issue or subject. Pamphlets may be secured from the Public Affairs Committee, National Press Building, Washington, D. C., at 10% each, and the supplements from the Office of Education, Department of Interior, also at 10¢ each.

Social Welfare Laws

A special series of legal reports is being prepared by the Division of Social Research, W.P.A., in which it is planned to give a digest or analysis of public welfare provisions under the state laws of every state in the Union. The states thus far covered in this series are: Kansas (Jan. 9), Maine (Jan. 15), Louisiana (Jan. 20), Wisconsin (Feb. 15), New York (Feb. 15), Illinois (March 1), and Nebraska (March 15).

Wendell Huston, 801 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, announces the publication of the 1937 revised Master Edition of Social Welfare Laws of the Forty-Eight States, which is a compilation of the full text of all social legislation of every state.

The Division of Social Research of the Works Progress Administration is planning a study of the extent to which the U. S. Employment Service reaches rural and urban youth. The plan involves securing data, from both industrial and rural counties, on active registrants with the Employment Service as of April 1, 1937. Information on placements will be taken for July 1934, January 1935, July 1935, January 1936, July 1936, and January 1937.

The National Resources Committee has published in final form the Report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, containing the Findings, Recommendations for Action, Official Documents, Photographic Supplement, and the Technical Supplement of three sections: (1) "Farm Tenancy in the U. S.", (2) "Problems Associated With Tenancy in the U. S.", and (3) "Some Tenure Programs of Other Nations". The Report concludes with a Statistical Supplement and a list of selected references.

The annual meeting of the American Country Life Association will be held at the Kansas State College in Manhattan, October 14th to 16th. The general topic of this national rural forum will be: "The People and the Land".

The April 17 issue of "Country Life" (London), which is the Coronation Number of the magazine, offers a general review of changes and progress in British agriculture since the last coronation, including sections on horse-breeding, beef cattle, dairying, sheep and pig breeding, poultry keeping, education and research, and farm mechanization.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS
Reviewed and Received

Federal

"Areas of Intense Drought Distress 1930-1936", by F. D. Cronin and Howard W. Beers, Series V, No. 1, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., Washington, D. C., January 1937.

"The People of the Drought States", by Conrad Taeuber and Carl C. Taylor, Series V, No. 2, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., and Resettlement Admin., Washington, D. C., March 1937.

"Relief and Rehabilitation in the Drought Area", by Irene Link, Series V, No. 3, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., Washington, D. C., 1937.

"The Migratory-Casual Worker", by John N. Webb, Research Monograph VII, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., Washington, D. C., 1937.

"Farmers on Relief and Rehabilitation" by Berta Asch and A. R. Mangus, Res. Monograph VIII, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., Washington, D. C., 1937.

"Survey of Workers Separated from WPA Employment in Eight Areas During the Second Quarter of 1936", Special Inquiries Section, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., (Series IV, No. 3), Washington, D. C., 1937.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas", Rural Section, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A. (Oct. 1936 - Feb. 1937, and summary of years 1932-1936.)

"Natural and Economic Factors Affecting Rural Rehabilitation in Southeastern Wyoming (as typified by Goshen County)", by H. L. Stewart, Res. Bull. K-13, Prelim. Rpt., Resettlement Admin., Washington, D. C., March 1937.

"Workers on Relief in the United States", March 1935, A Census of Usual Occupations, prepared by Philip M. Hauser, Div. of Soc. Res., W.P.A., (Abridged Edition), Washington, D. C., January 1937.

"Who Are the Job Seekers?" U. S. Employment Service, Dept. of Labor, U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937.

"A Graphic Summary of Physical Features and Land Utilization in the U. S.", by O. E. Baker, Misc. Publ. No. 260, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., May 1937.

"A Graphic Summary of Farm Taxation 1937", by Donald Jackson, Misc. Publ. No. 262, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1937.

"Compensation as a Means of Improving the Farm Tenancy System", by Marshall Harris, Land Use Planning Publ. No. 14, L. U. Div., Resettlement Admin., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1937.

"Recent Trends Toward Diversified Farming in Southern Cotton Areas", by Helen I. Slentz, Land Use Planning Publ. No. 17, L. U. Div., Resettlement Admin., Washington, D. C., March 1937.

"General Framework of Law and Procedure Within Which Local Governments Operate in Montana", by John J. Haggerty, Land Use Planning Publ. No. 18-b, L. U. Div., Resettlement Admin., Washington, D. C., April 1937.

"Periodicals Issued by Farmers' Marketing and Purchasing Associations", by Chastina Gardner, Misc. Rpt. No. 5 (revised), Coop. Div. Farm Credit Admin., Washington, D. C., March 1937.

"Statistics of Farmers' Marketing and Purchasing Associations, 1935-36 Marketing Season", by R. H. Elsworth, Misc. Rpt. No. 12, Coop. Div., Farm Credit Admin., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1937.

"The Fourth Annual Report of the Farm Credit Administration, 1936", U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937.

"The Expansion of Home Economics Extension Work Under the Bankhead-Jones Act", Madge J. Reese, Ext. Serv. Cir. No. 256, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1937.

<u>U. S. Census of Agriculture 1935</u>, Vol. III General Report - Statistics by Subjects, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C., 1937.

"Report of the Inquiry on Cooperative Enterprise in Europe, 1937", U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937.

Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1936, (58th number).
U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C., 1936.

"Housing Conditions in the United States", by N. H. Engle, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C., April 1937.

"Workers in Subjects Pertaining to Agriculture in Land-Grant Colleges and Experiment Stations 1936-1937", by Mary A. Agnew, Bull No. 254, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., March 1937.

"Good References on Supervision of Instruction in Rural Schools", compiled by Walter H. Gaumnitz and Martha R. McCabe, Bibliography No. 3, (1936 edition), U. S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D. C., 1937.

State

Arizona

"Unemployment Relief in Arizona From October 1, 1932 Through December 31, 1936, With a Special Analysis of Rural Relief Households," E. D. Tetreau, Agr. Expt. Sta., Univ. of Ariz., Tucson, Ariz., June 1937.

Arkansas

"Plantation Operations of Landlords and Tenants in Arkansas", H. W. Blalock, Bull. No. 339, Univ. of Ark., Agr. Exp. Sta., Fayetteville, Ark., May 1937.

Connecticut

"Types of Farming and Type of Farming Areas in Connecticut", I. G. Davis, Bull. No. 213, Conn. State College, Storrs, Conn., Dec. 1936.

"Rural Families on Relief in Connecticut", by N. L. Whetten, H. D. Darling, W. C. McKain, and R. F. Field, Bull. No. 215, Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta., Storrs, Conn., January 1937.

Iowa

"Farm Tenure in Iowa", II. Facts on the Farm Tenure Situation, Rainer Schickele, Bull. No. 356, Agr. Exp. Sta., Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, Feb. 1937.

"Farm Tenure in Iowa". III. The National Farm Institute Symposium on Land Tenure (Held at Des Moines, Ia. Feb. 19-20, 1937), Bull. No. 357, Agr. Exp. Sta., Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, April 1937.

Massachusetts

"The Economic Status of Hired Labor on Massachusetts Market Garden Farms", by Marguerite E. Bicknell, Unpublished manuscript in BAE Library.

Michigan

"Some Characteristics of Rural Families in Three Michigan Communities", by C. R. Hoffer, Special Bull. No. 283, Agr. Exp. Sta., Mich. State College, East Lansing, Michigan, April 1937.

"Michigan Census of Population and Unemployment", (First Series, Nos. 1-10), State Emergency Welfare Relief Commission, Lansing, Mich., July 1936-April 1937.

Minnesota

"Survey of Police Training", Final Report of the Regents' Examining Committee on the Police Training Project, distributed by the Regents' Examining Committee, Room 15, University Library Building, Minneapolis, Minn., 1937.

Missouri

"Rural Women and the Works Progress Program", E. L. Morgan, J. D. Ensminger, and M. W. Sneed, Res. Bull. No. 253, Univ. of Mo., Agr. Exp. Sta., Columbia, Mo., April 1937.

Nebraska

"A Study of Relief Activities in Seven Nebraska Counties, 1927-1934", Leland H. Stott, Res. Bull. No. 89, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Neb., Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1937.

"Summary of Nebraska Home Account Records 1929-1936", Muriel Smith, Ext. Cir. 11-114, Univ. of Neb. Agr. Coll. Ext. Serv. and U. S. D. A. cooperating, May 1936.

"Better Tenant Farming", Cornelius J. Claassen, Farmers National Co., Agricultural Service, 5th edition, Omaha, Neb., 1937.

New Jersey

"Farmers' Five Foot Shelf", Discussion Bibliography No. 1. Ext. Serv., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J., May 1937.

New York

"Relation of Size of Community to Marital Status", Dwight Sanderson, Memoir 200, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, N.Y., Feb. 1937.

"Rural Youth; Activities, Interests, and Problems", II. Unmarried Young Men and Women, 15 to 29 Years of Age; W. A. Anderson, Bull No. 661, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 1937.

"Games for 4-H Clubs, Home Bureaus, and Groups in the Home", Wm. M. Smith Jr., Bull. No. 369, Cornell Univ. Agr. Ext. Serv., Ithaca, N. Y., February 1937.

"Index Numbers of the Cost of Goods and Services Bought by Farm Families in New York, 1920 to 1935", Helen Canon and Mabel Rollins, Memoir 199, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 1937.

"List of Publications Issued by Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta.", Bull. No. 47, Revised April 1937, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

Ohio

"Future Population of the State of Ohio", prepared by John C. Everett and Kyle W. Armstrong, Ohio State Planning Board, Columbus, Ohio, January 1937.

"Guiding Behavior of Children", Amalie K. Nelson, Bull. No. 184, Agr. Ext. Serv., Ohio State Univ., Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 1936.

Pennsylvania

"Rural Tax Delinquency in Pennsylvania 1928-1932", P. I. Wrigley, Paper No. 703, Journal Series, Pa. State College, School of Agr., State College, Pa., Sept. 1935.

Rhode Island

"The Rural Homemaker in Southern Rhode Island As A Paid Worker", Margaret Whittemore and Blanche M. Kuschke, Bull. No. 259, Agr. Exp. Sta., Rhode Island State College, Kingston, R. I., Dec. 1936.

South Dakota

"The Association of Relief Status of the Farm Operators in South Dakota With the Size of Farms Operated and With Various Personal Characteristics of the Farm Operators, 1935", Zetta E. Bankert, S. D. State College, Brookings, S. D., June 1937. (mimeo.)

"A Graphic Summary of Relief Trends in South Dakota 1930 to 1935", W. F. Kumlien, S. D. State College, Brookings, S. D., June 1937.

"Public and Private Assistance Extended to Households in Rural and Town Areas in South Dakota January 1, 1936 to March 31, 1937", S. D. State College, Brookings, S. D., May 26, 1937. (mimeo.)

"Education and the Standard of Living", T. C. Donahue, Rockham, S. D. (The Relationship Between the Extent of Education and The Standard of Living of the People of South Dakota). A thesis presented for the Degree of Master of Arts, Ohio State University, 1936.

"Economic and Social Survey of Buffalo County", S. D. State Planning Board and Buffalo County Planning Board, Brookings, S. D.

Tennessee

"Relation of Education to Social and Economic Status of Farmers in Tennessee", C. E. Allred and B. D. Raskopf, Monograph No. 29, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., March 1937.

"Home Conveniences on Tennessee Farms With Regional Comparisons", C. E. Allred and W. E. Hendrix, Monograph No. 30, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., March 1937.

"How Swiss Farmers Operate on the Cumberland Plateau", C. E. Allred, S. R. Neskaug, and W. E. Hendrix, Monograph No. 33, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., April 1937.

"Courses in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Land Grant Colleges, 1935-1936", C. E. Allred and W. E. Hendrix, Monograph No. 39, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., May 1937.

"Index Numbers of Prices Received by Tennessee Farmers, 1910-1936, With Comparisons", C. E. Allred, P. T. Sant, and C. M. Smith, Monograph No. 41, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., May 1937.

"Rural Cooperative Telephones in Tennessee", Chas. E. Allred, T.L. Robinson, B. H. Luebke, and S. R. Neskaug, Monograph No. 45, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Tenn., June 1937.

"The Health Program as a Contribution to the Population Engaged in the Economics of the Tennessee Valley", E. L. Bishop, M.D., Tenn. Valley Economics Council, Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 1937. (mimeo.)

Utah

"Federal Irrigation Reclamation in Relationship to Agricultural Policy", Wm. Peterson, New Series Cir. No. 92, Utah Ext. Serv., Logan, Utah, March 1937.

Vermont

"Building Farm Life", Recommendations for the Improvement of Farming and Farm Living in Washington County, Vt., Washington County Farm Bureau and Vt. Agr. Ext. Serv., Montpelier, Vt., October 1936.

Virginia

"An Economic and Social Survey of Patrick County, Virginia", M. C. Conner and Wm. K. Bing, Univ. of Va., Charlottesville, Va., 1937.

Washington

"A Graphic Presentation of Changes in the Agriculture of Washington From 1930 to 1935", Carl P. Heisig, Bull. No. 341, Agr. Exp. Sta., Pullman, Washington, December 1936.

Wisconsin

"Rural Sociology Extension in Wisconsin" (Dec. 1, 1935 to Dec. 1, 1936), Dept. of Rural Sociology, Coll. of Agr., Univ. of Wis., Madison, Wis. and U. S. D. A. cooperating.

"Rural Relief Changes in Wisconsin", A Study of the Characteristics of Rural Households on Relief June 1935 and April 1936, G. W. Hill, Walter Slocum, and R. A. Smith, Agr. Expt. Sta., Stencil Bull, Univ. of Wis., Madison, Wis. Feb. 1937. (mimeo.)

"Music Making in the Rural Community", Dan E. Vornholt and Amy A. Gessner, Stencil Cir. No. 188, Ext. Serv., Coll. of Agr., Univ. of Wis., Madison, Wis., April 1937.

Miscellaneous

Rural Trends in Depression Years, Edmund deS. Brunner and Irving Lorge, Columbia Univ. Press. New York, N. Y., 1937.

"A Federal Resettlement Project, Granger Homesteads, Iowa", Raymond P. Duggan, Monograph No. 1, School of Social Work, Catholic Univ., of America, Washington, D. C., 1937.

"The Population Problem in Egypt", A Study of Population Trends and Conditions in Modern Egypt, W. W. Cleland, Columbia Univ. thesis, 1936.

"The First World Agricultural Census (1930)", Bulls. 5,6,9,11,16, International Institute of Agriculture, Roma, Villa Umberto 1, 1936.

"The World Agricultural Situation in 1934-35", International Institute of Agriculture, Roma, Villa Umberto 1, 1936.

"International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics, 1934-35", International Institute of Agriculture, Roma, Villa Umberto 1, 1936.

"Income in Agriculture, 1929-1935", R. F. Martin, National Industrial Conference Board, New York, N. Y., 1936.

Economic Problems of the Prairie Provinces, W. A. Mackintosh, Canadian Frontiers of Settlement Series, Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 1936.

Social Institutions, Lloyd Vernor Ballard, D. Appleton Century Co., New York, N. Y., 1936.

"Government Statistics", A Report of the Committee on Government Statistics and Information Services, Bull. No. 26, Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Ave., New York, N. Y., April 1937.

"A Selected Bibliography of Books on Economic and Social Planning, 1935-1936", National Economic and Social Planning Assoc., 1721 Eye St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

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FARM POPULATION BURBARY OCT 2 9 1937 AND ASPECTIONAL ECONOMICS AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE

REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 1, 1937.

List of Publications

Vol. XI, No. 4

31

CONTENTS

Research Reports	age
Selecting Families for Colonization Projects New Agricultural Holdings in Europe The Social Aspects of the Depression Reports on Relief and Rehabilitation Population Mobility in Ohio Farm Labor Status of North Carolina Rural Families Occupations of Children of Mississippi Farmers Immigrant Settlements and Social Organization A Social Survey in Pennsylvania Agricultural Experimentation and Research Land Use Farm Family Living and Consumer Purchases U. S. Employment Service and Agriculture Growth of Urban Population Mortality Statistics. Extension Reports	. 2 . 3 . 4 . 9 . 10 . 12 . 13 . 13 . 14 . 14 . 15 . 16
Divisional and State News	19
Folk Art Population Distribution in Colonial America. Child Labor in Agriculture Technological Trends in Agriculture. Our Cities Population Pressure in Japan. Selective Migration from a German Village. Social and Economic Structure of Agricultural Systems. New Bibliographies. Census of Florida.	. 24 . 25 . 25 . 26 . 27 . 28 . 28

In the sudden death of Professor E. L. Morgan on October 9, Rural Sociology loses another one of its pioneers. Dr. Morgan at the time of his death was Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri, and Collaborator of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Morgan has given his entire life to the field of rural activities. He was born and reared on a farm near Boone Gap, Illinois, and after being graduated from McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois, went to the University of Wisconsin where he did graduate work in agricultural economics and rural sociology, receiving his Master's Degree there in 1912. He received his Ph.D. Degree from Massachusetts State College in 1932.

Dr. Morgan's outstanding and unique contribution to the field of rural sociology was in the field of Extension work. He went to Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1912 with the title of "Community Adviser". Here, until the United States entered the World War, he worked as a pioneer in the field of rural sociology extension work. In describing this work, Kenyon L. Butterfield, then President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, said, "The community adviser simply advises an entire community as to the methods that it may find useful in developing the community as a whole, just as the farm management adviser advises the individual farmer as to the methods which may be helpful to him in the best development of his farm."

In 1918, Professor Morgan published an outstanding bulletin entitled, "Mobilizing the Rural Community". This bulletin probably received wider attention and more favorable comment than anything of its kind since published. This was due to the fact that the bulletin attempted to analyze the needs of the rural community, prescribed what could and needed to be done, and then offered suggestions on how the community could be mobilized or organized to lift itself by its own bootstraps, so to speak.

Professor Morgan made a transition from rural sociology extension work to teaching and research during the period of the World War when he acted as National Director of the Rural Service of the American Red Cross. In the Fall of 1921, he went to the University of Missouri as Professor of Rural Sociology. Here he not only continued to foster rural sociology extension work, by adding B. L. Hummel, now nationally known in the field of rural sociology, to the staff, but, following the activities for which he had been responsible in the Red Cross, he developed the first curriculum in rural social work to be offered by any college or university in the nation.

In addition to his many duties at the University of Missouri, teaching, extension, and administration, Professor Morgan participated extensively in national and state organizations. He was for a period of years a member of the official board of the American Country Life Association; at the time of his death, Vice-Chairman of the Social Security Board of Missouri, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Planning of the State Planning Board, and at various times he had held the positions of President, Secretary, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Selecting Families for Colonization Projects

"The desire of the family as a whole, and particularly of the husband, for the particular land-settlement opportunity offered seems to be most essential to the persistent enterprise and the willingness to sacrifice personal comforts necessary for successful settlement." This is the conclusion of "An Analysis of Methods and Criteria Used in Selecting Families for Colonization Projects", which has been published jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security Administration.

Certain other minimum requirements which it is advisable to set up for colonization projects are discussed: Good health, an age and sex composition of the family that is suitable to the farm units to be operated, suitable number and cooperation of family members, technical knowledge of the required type of agriculture, preferably gained through experience, a rudimentary education, and character. Intelligence and cooperative ability permit the settler to make the most of his group relations. Religiosity and idealism may intensify his desire to succeed if they lend purpose to this work and sanction those virtues requisite to success in land settlement.

In addition, the author describes the methods of settler selection employed by four governmental agencies: The Bureau of Reclamation, and the Division of Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior, the Division of Rural Rehabilitation of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and the Resettlement Administration.

This is the first of a series of reports published as a result of the cooperative research carried on through the Social Research Section of the Farm Security Administration (formerly the Resettlement Administration) and the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Seventeen other reports in this series are scheduled for early publication.

"An Analysis of Methods and Criteria Used in Selecting Families for Colonization Projects", by John B. Holt, Social Research Report No. 1, Farm Security Administration and Bur. of Agr. Econ., Washington, D. C., Sept. 1937. 54 pp.

Tenure of New Agricultural Holdings in Europe

Land settlement schemes in a number of European countries have often served as an experimental ground for the testing of new tenure policies. Absolutely unrestricted private ownership has not been granted in connection with any of the land settlement schemes studied, and in various forms of tenancy, the settler's rights of disposal have been modified in many matters of tenure. There is considerable similarity in these restrictions in England, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Restricted tenures have met with success in warding off such dangers as inefficient use of the land or its abuse, the diversion of land to non-agricultural purposes, undesirable subdivision or enlargement, overburdening with indebtedness, speculation, and other undesirable developments.

Obligations imposed on the lessor in relation to compensation for unexhausted improvements, the termination of the agreement, and the determination of rent payments have done much to improve the conditions prevailing under different forms of tenancy. Valuable results may also be expected from the establishment of special arbitration and adjustment machinery to adjust disputes outside the courts.

In spite of repeated special efforts on the part of the English government to promote the use of ownership arrangements, practically all of the English settlers have preferred to be settled as public tenants. In Scotland, the majority of the new holdings have been established on publicly owned land and are operated under public mixed tenure. In Germany, most of the settlers have been placed on the land under restricted ownership of the rental holding type. In Denmark mixed tenure seems to gain more and more adherents.

These are some of the major findings reported in Social Research Bulletin Number 2, "Tenure of New Agricultural Holdings in Several European Countries," by Erich Kraemer. This is one of the series of social research bulletins published through the cooperation of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Farm Security Administration.

The Social Aspects of the Depression

A series of 13 research monographs on studies in Social Aspects of the Depression has been issued by the Social Science Research Council. Each author was asked to examine critically the literature on the depression, for the purpose of locating existing data and interpretations already reasonably well established, of discovering the more serious inadequacies in information, and of formulating research problems feasible for study. He was not expected to do this research himself, nor was he expected to compile a full and systematically treated record of the depression as experienced in his field. Nevertheless, in indicating needed new research, the writer found it necessary to report on what is known, and the volumes contain much information on the social influences of the depression in addition to the analyses of pressing research questions. Two of these reports may be of especial interest to readers of "Activities," those dealing with rural life and with internal migration.

The report on Rural Life in the Depression was prepared by Prof. Dwight Sanderson of Cornell University. The author surveys changes in rural population, its composition and movements, pointing to changes in farm population, the data available from the 1935 Census of Agriculture, and the needed research on the relation of fertility to resources and to relief, and the effects of migration or a reduction of migration. The growing emphasis on regionalism, social effects of marginal land, the nature and effects of part-time farming, and Rehabilitation and Resettlement programs are discussed as social corollaries of agricultural readjustment problems.

Important changes have occurred with reference to the status and stratification of farmers, but the regional differences in changing tenancy rates suggest the diversity of the changes. As yet there appears to be no evidence of any widespread decadence in the spirit of rural youth or of a general attitude of frustration on their part, but leisure-time programs and the effects of the retardation of migration call for study, particularly study in which local groups participate.

In his chapter on Rural Institutions, Professor Sanderson concludes, "There seems to be little evidence that the depression has had any fundamental effect toward changing the patterns of the basic rural institutions, although certain tendencies already under way have been accelerated while others have been retarded."

The attitudes toward agriculture are stressed, especially in their relation to success in commercialized agriculture. Frequent studies of the attitudes of rural boys and girls toward farm life as they leave school are urged as a source of needed information on attitudes toward farm life.

In the discussion of Internal Migration in the United States, Warren S. Thompson gives a sketch of the chief migratory movements, and then turns attention to migration during the depression. He contends that the increase in farm population between 1930 and 1935 represents in part, "perhaps to the extent of one-half," a census error. He states further that probably much of the talk of a back-to-the-land movement during the depression was without adequate foundation. A number of recent studies of internal migration are sketched briefly, as are also methods of estimating migration and possible sources of statistical information. The motivation of migration and problems of assimilation are stressed as fields of research. A 14-page bibliography is included.

The reports in this series are: Research Memoranda on, "Crime in the Depression" by Thorsten Sellin; "Education in the Depression", by the Educational Policies Commission; "The Family in the Depression," by Samuel A. Stouffer and Paul F. Lazarsfeld; "Internal Migration in the Depression," by Warren S. Thompson; "Minority Peoples in the Depression," by Donald Young; "Recreation in the Depression," by Jesse F. Steiner; "Religion in the Depression," by Samuel C. Kincheloe; "Rural Life in the Depression," by Dwight Sanderson; "Social Aspects of Consumption in the Depression," by Roland S. Vaile; "Social Aspects of Health in the Depression," by Selwyn D. Collins and Clark Tibbitts; "Social Aspects of Reading in the Depression," by Douglas Waples; "Social Aspects of Relief Policies in the Depression," by R. Clyde White and Mary K. White; "Social Work in the Depression," by F. Stuart Chapin and Stuart A. Queen.

Unemployment Relief in Arizona

A bulletin of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station presents a history of unemployment relief in that State from October 1932, when Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans became available for relief purposes, until the end of 1936, when a diversified program of aid, employment, and loans was in operation. Special attention is given to rural and town relief households and to rural rehabilitation cases, based on an analysis of cases in four sample counties and on studies of turnover in the rural relief population. A brief survey of employment trends is included, as is also an evaluation of the prospects for reduced relief needs.

> "Unemployment Relief in Arizona From October 1, 1932 Through December 31, 1936, With a Special Analysis of Rural and Town Relief Households," by E. D. Tetreau, Bull. No. 156, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., July 1937. 58 pp.

Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas

With the issue of "Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas for May-June 1937 and for the Years 1932-1936", the Works Progress Administration will relinquish publication of this series to the Social Security Board. The rural and town relief series was initiated in 1936 by the Rural Section, Division of Social Research of the Works Progress Administration to provide an indicator of month-to-month changes in the volume and costs of relief to families in rural and town areas. Tabulations of relief expenditures in rural and town sample areas as far back as January 1932 have been made, and detailed monthly figures for the years 1932-1936 will be published shortly by the Works Progress Administration. The rural relief series is complementary to a similar collection of relief statistics for large cities compiled by the Social Security Board.

In January 1936, the index of aggregate expenditures for four major types of relief in rural and town sample areas, based on the average monthly amount expended during the year July 1935-June 1936, was 83.1. Following a slight rise in February 1936, the index of aggregate expenditures declined steadily through June 1936, when it stood at 65.5. Reflecting the expansion of programs of assistance to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children, and increases in Resettlement emergency grants in the drought areas, the curve of aggregate relief expenditures began to mount in July 1936, stood at 107.4 in December 1936, and reached 134.6 in January 1937. Due to a sharp increase in Resettlement grants, the index climbed to a high of 145.9 in March. After March, the curve of aggregate expenditures was steadily downward through June as expenditures for general public assistance, including aid to veterans, and for Resettlement emergency grants showed a seasonal decline.

Between May and June 1937, total relief expenditures decreased 8.0 percent and cases aided decreased 7.7 percent. In June 1937 expenditures for aid to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children constituted 75 percent or more of the aggregate relief expenditures in 8 States and from 50 to 75 percent in 15 States. Resettlement emergency grants accounted for the largest proportion of expenditures in six of the southern and western States in which the Social Security program had not been developed or was still of limited importance.

In general the expansion of aid to the three Social Security classes and through Resettlement emergency grants resulted in a cut in the proportion of assistance represented by general and veterans' relief. In four States, however - Arizona, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia - general and veterans' relief was still the dominant type of assistance in June 1937.

Sampling in the Field of Rural Relief

Results given by relief studies in rural sample areas have proved so satisfactory that the Rural Section of the Division of Social Research,

Works Progress Administration, has decided to develop further the methods of selecting sample counties and testing them for representativeness. The present study aims: (1) to test the general representativeness of selected counties with respect to a large number of social and economic indexes; (2) to determine significant research areas in addition to the nine agricultural areas originally defined for purposes of relief sampling; (3) to determine the comparative homogeneity of the several areas with respect to various indexes; (4) to locate vital sub-areas within major agricultural areas; and (5) to determine the minimum number of sample counties that can be considered a reliable sample of rural United States and of given areas with respect to various factors.

In order to meet these aims, a complete county file of basic data is being established. A card for each county in the United States will contain, to begin with, the following information: (1) percent of rural population; (2) percent of rural population residing on farms; (3) percent of farm tenancy, 1930; (4) percent of farm tenancy, 1935; (5) percent wage workers are of all agricultural workers; (6) per capita land value; (7) median farm income per farm; (8) per worker agricultural income; (9) rural plane of living index; (10) rural-farm plane of living index; (11) rural-nonfarm plane of living index; (12) rural fertility ratio; (13) rural-farm fertility ratio; (14) rural-nonfarm fertility ratio; (15) percent of acreage in crop failure, 1934; (16) percent of rural population on relief, October 1933; (17) percent of population on relief, March 1935; (18) average amount of relief per case; (19) percent of rural population colored; (20) percent of rural-farm population colored; and (21) percent of rural-nonfarm population colored.

In addition to these indexes, the basic data cards provide information concerning the major types of farming in the county and the agricultural area to which the county belongs. A general farming area, a tobacco area, an irrigated farming area, and a Pacific Coast area have been added to the nine original areas delineated by the F.E.R.A. for rural studies. The comparative homogeneity of the counties in the several areas is being determined by the computation of the standard deviation of the social and economic indexes for each area.

Type of agriculture is being supplemented by determining the relative importance of nonagricultural industries and by listing on each card the vital nonagricultural industries in the county. In order to consider urban influence on rural areas, all counties have been classified into six types as follows: (1) counties having no center of 2,500 or more; (2) largest center 2,500 to 5,000; (3) largest center 5,000 to 10,000; (4) largest center 10,000 to 25,000; (5) largest center 25,000 or over (except metropolitan) and (6) metropolitan counties.

Beet Workers on Relief in Weld County, Colorado

Families of Spanish-speaking beet workers in Weld County, Colorado, who had received some relief between February and October 1935 had a total income of \$436 during the 12 months ending in February 1936, or approximately \$78 per person for the year. More than half of this income came from earnings in the beet fields, 9 percent came from other non-relief work, and 39 percent came from some form of public assistance. More than one-fourth of these families reported incomes of less than \$200 from all sources for the year; a fourth reported between \$300 and \$400. Only 7 percent reported \$800 or more. The families which had work in all beet field operations had an average income from some work of \$289, excluding the amount paid out for hired help. Beet labor has been the usual occupation for most of the family heads for a relatively long period of time, 6 out of 10 reporting that they had been so engaged for 10 years or more. Most of the children reported as working in beets during the 1935 season were 14 and 15 years of age; 3 out of every 4 persons aged 14 and 15 worked in beets.

Two-fifths of the males aged 16 or over and included in this study could not read, write, or speak English. One-tenth of the persons over 16 had completed the eighth grade. One-fourth of the children aged six to 15 had no school attendance record during the year 1935-36, and those who attended school missed nearly one-fourth of the days that school was in session; they also showed considerable retardation.

Food was the most important single item in the cost of living, accounting for one-half of the total expenditures. Only the group of cases having incomes of \$800 or more managed, on the average, to keep their costs of living for the year less than their income. Families averaged 5.6 persons in size, and half of all persons were in the "dependent" age groups, under 15 or over 65 years of age. Overcrowding was marked; the house most frequently reported having only two rooms. Home conveniences such as telephones, electric lights, or refrigeration were almost completely lacking, but 1 in every 10 families had some kind of a radio set, and nearly half reported sewing machines. Seven-tenths owned an automobile, the operation of which cost an average of \$97 for the year. Social contacts were almost entirely through the churches, the movies, and informal contacts. Nearly every family had at least one church member, and three-fifths had made some contributions to the church during the year. Seven-tenths reported some attendance at movies, each of these families reporting a total of 30 attendances during the year for all members.

> "Beet Workers on Relief in Weld County, Colorado", by Olaf Larson, Research Bulletin No. 4, Colorado State Agr. Exp. Sta., Fort Collins, Colo., May 1937. 31 pp.

The Relief Population of Maryland

Dependency in Maryland was only partially brought about by the depression. The depletion of natural resources, especially timber, coal, and sea food was being felt before the depression and entered the picture as an added cause in several rural counties. A relatively large number of elderly unemployables and a prolonged outward migration of young people from some rural areas have increased the problems. Where the problems of the aged are increasing, and where stranded workers in the sea food or coal mining industries are concentrated, the need for public assistance may remain a serious problem for a long time.

These are some of the major conclusions of a study of the occupational and other characteristics of the relief population in Baltimore and in seven counties in Maryland.

"An Analysis of the Relief Population in Selected Areas of Maryland", by Theodore B. Manny and Harry G. Clowes, Univ. of Maryland Social Research Studies, Mimeo. Circ. No. 1, College Park, Md., Aug. 1937. 77 pp.

Relief in Montana

Almost a fourth of the population of Montana was on relief in February 1935. About half the relief population were young people under 20 years of age. Almost a third of the heads of relief households were between 25 and 40 years of age, their best earning period in life. More than a third of all the relief households represent normal families of husband, wife, and children under 16 years of age. One-sixth of the household heads were considered unemployable either because of some physical or mental defects, or because they were 65 years old or over. Two of every five heads of households were currently employed in some gainful occupation.

"The Relief Problem in Montana - A Study of the Change in the Character of the Relief Population", by Carl F. Kraenzel and Ruth B. McIntosh, Mont. Agr. Exp. Sta., Bozeman, Mont., Bull. No. 343, June 1937. 64 pp.

Rural Relief in Virginia

During the first five months of 1935, 5,500 new cases were added to the rural relief rolls every month, while 5,000 were closed, but during the last seven months accessions averaged only 2,000 cases per month while separations averaged 6,000. During the first half of

the year, one-half of all accessions had previously been on relief; during the last half of the year the proportion rose to three-fourths. The average rural relief case in June 1935 had received relief for more than 11 months since January 1932. Open country cases had been on relief longer than cases in the villages, and Negroes longer than whites. On an average, six months had elapsed between the opening of the relief case and the time when the head of the household had his last job at his usual occupation.

"Relief History, Rural Emergency Relief Cases in Virginia, 1935." Social Research Division of Federal WPA and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, cooperating. Rural Relief Series, No. 3, Blacksburg, Va., April 1937. 43 pp.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Clients

The Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation program selected its clients from relief rolls. In general they were young farmers with large families who, during the years of drought and depression, had used up their resources to such an extent that they could no longer farm efficiently. While their incomes were low, they were not habitual dependents. They lacked food and clothing, but their basic needs were for livestock, farming equipment, and funds to discharge existing obligations.

A detailed study giving distribution of clients, relief record, tenure, occupation, mobility, family and home conditions, farming conditions, working capital, indebtedness, education, and health has been completed. Characteristics of these clients resemble closely those reported in the nation-wide study of farmers on relief and rehabilitation. A follow-up study is planned in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration and the WPA to show the factors connected with the success or failure of these clients.

"Characteristics of Arkansas Rehabilitation Clients", by W. T. Wilson and W. H. Metzler, Bull. 348, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Ark., Fayetteville, Ark., June 1937. 48 pp.

Population Mobility in Ohio

Except in the northeastern urbanized section of Ohio, rural areas surveyed in that State reported a net loss of population due to migration between 1930 and 1935. The general trend was similar to that prevailing between 1920 and 1930, but the net loss was only about one-third as great during the later period. After 1929, there was some return movement to the survey areas by persons who had been reared there. These migrants came to villages in preference to the open country. Apparently the

economic depression failed to change the pattern of migration from the sample areas, to city, village, or open country, although it greatly reduced the volume of that migration. Failure to migrate may be regarded as having double the importance of return migration in accounting for the accumulation of rural youth since 1930.

Thirty-three of every 1,000 male and 15 of every 1,000 female adult children who had left the parental home before 1929 had returned by 1935. Among those who had gone to cities, 93 of every 1,000 moved to a smaller place or to the open country between 1929 and 1935.

Four-fifths of the male heads of families were continuously employed between 1929 and 1935, and four percent were not employed at all during the six years. The others, those who were employed only part of the time reported an average of more than 24 months of unemployment.

The occupational shifts consisted largely of an attempt on the part of the wage workers to avoid unemployment and to obtain an occupational status of greater security, some of the unemployed urban workers shifting to agriculture. However, young adult children were seriously retarded in their occupational advancement after 1929, in comparison with the years before 1929.

"Population Mobility in Selected Areas of Rural Ohio, 1928-1935", by C. E. Lively and Frances Foott, Ohio Agr. Exp. Sta., Bull. 582, Wooster, O., June 1937. 53 pp.

Reports on Farm Labor

The studies of social and economic conditions of farm laborers in 11 counties, which have been carried on by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration and the WPA, have been completed. These studies give facts concerning the earnings, social status, length of employment, method of securing employment, employment of other members of the family, family composition, age, race, and sex of the farm laborers who were employed at the time of the survey, during the summer and fall of 1936.

Eleven bulletins dealing with the findings in the 11 counties surveyed have been prepared and will be released soon. At the present time, the report for Wayne County, Pennsylvania, is available. Reports are also being issued for the following counties: California - Placer; Colorado - Archuleta; Illinois - Livingston; Iowa - Hamilton; Kansas - Pawnee; Kentucky - Todd; Louisiana - Concordia Parish; Minnesota - Lac qui Parle; Tennessee - Fentress; Texas - Karnes.

Labor Disputes in Agriculture

According to present indications, there were fewer farm labor strikes during 1937 than during 1936. This continues the trend observed since 1933, when more farm labor disputes were reported than in any year since that time. A record of farm labor disputes is being kept by J. C. Folsom of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. These records deal with disputes reported in principal newspapers and with those recorded by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Records of this type are necessarily incomplete because many small local difficulties of short duration are settled before they attract public attention. Nevertheless, 166 such strikes, involving more than 150,000 workers, were recorded between 1927 and 1936. Although they have been reported from every geographic division of the country, five-ninths of them occurred in California.

Seasonal Labor on Arizona Irrigated Farms

Arizona irrigated farms will require during 1937 a little more than 5,700,000 man-days of hired labor of which 4,200,000 man-days will be seasonal. These 4,200,000 man-days of seasonal labor are distributed throughout the year in exceedingly uneven proportions. Of any 1,000 man-days, 142 are required during the first four months of the year, 210 during the period from May through August, and 648 during September, October, November, and December. Differences in requirements in Arizona farming areas for seasonal labor were due largely to: (1) predominance of certain commodities in given areas, (2) commodity diversification within areas, and (3) the extent to which diversified farming is being practiced on individual farms.

Areas in which farm specialization was generally practiced, but in which many commodities were produced such as lettuce, cantaloupes, cotton, dairy products, etc. showed a more even distribution of seasonal labor requirements than areas that were largely devoted to one cash crop such as cotton. The total amount of seasonal labor employed was proportionally smaller in areas in which diversified farming was extensively practiced on individual farms. Area diversification affords an economic basis for a more even spread of seasonal labor requirements throughout the year. Circuits of migration may be shortened and more labor per man provided.

"Seasonal Labor on Arizona Irrigated Farms", by E. D. Tetreau, Mimeo., Tucson, Ariz., June 1937.

Status of Rural Families in North Carolina, 1930-35

During the depression years in North Carolina, there was a movement toward farms in the "poor" farming areas, especially among unemployed city workers and their families. The influx was greatest in the mountain areas of western North Carolina, although it occurred also in the coastal areas of the State. In both regions, the settlement was greatest in rural areas surrounding urban and industrial centers. The rural population was further increased by the "backing up" of thousands of rural youths on the farms, who normally would have migrated to urban areas.

The great increase in farm tenancy was affected by depression forces, and by specific factors such as the A.A.A. programs. The activities of the A.A.A. tended to increase the number of farms and decrease the average acreage of each. Landlords found it profitable to finance tenants and croppers and put them back on farms. With a reduction in acreage, there was a substantial increase in the cash farm income. In addition, farm families raised a greater proportion of their foodstuffs which added to their real income. The welfare of the farming group was greatly enhanced during the years 1933, 1934, and 1935. Movements both up and down the "agricultural ladder" were common during 1930 to 1935. No evidence existed of a general long-time improvement in the social and economic welfare of the farm families.

These are some of the findings of a study which had as its general purpose to determine the effect of the depression, agricultural adjustment, and business recovery upon some of the basic social and economic processes in rural North Carolina. The data are presented in 79 tables and 59 figures.

"Recent Changes in the Social and Economic Status of Farm Families in North Carolina", by C. Horace Hamilton, N.C. Agri. Exp. Sta., Bull. 309, May 1937. 180 pp.

Occupations of Children of Mississippi Farmers

Two-thirds of the sons of Mississippi cotton farmers are themselves engaged in farming, and two-thirds of the daughters are either married to farmers or are themselves engaged in farming. About one-fourth of the sons and the same proportion of the daughters were connected with occupations other than farming. This was shown by a study of 1,567 sons and daughters 19 to 34 years of age in the 500 cotton farmer families interviewed in five counties in Mississippi.

The study shows further that sons and daughters of farm owners were more likely to be owners themselves, but sons and daughters of

tenants were more likely to be tenants. Children of tenants remained in agricultural work to a greater extent than did children of owners. Machine industry and related trades were reported most frequently by those who left the farm. Sons and daughters who left the farm had received more formal education than those who did not. Daughters of tenants were more likely to marry farmers than were daughters of owners.

More of the sons went to college, but more daughters received diplomas, due partly to the daughters' choice of vocations requiring longer formal training. Sons were more apt to be called back to help operate the farm. Sons and daughters were more apt to receive longer schooling if their mothers had finished high school or college, and also if there were older brothers and sisters who had received college training. Children of owners received more education than did children of tenants.

The largest proportion of farming sons came from homes in which the father had always been a full-time farmer.

"Occupations of Sons and Daughters of
Mississippi Cotton Farmers", by Dorothy
Dickins, Miss. Agr. Exp. Sta., Bull. No.
318, State College, Miss., May 1937. 132 pp.

Immigrant Settlements and Social Organization

Experiment Station continues the study of immigrant settlement in that State. The present bulletin aims to describe the historical, social, and cultural aspects of immigration into South Dakota and to outline the system of social organization of the foreign settlements. Special attention is paid to those group bonds which unite immigrant settlements into churches and related church organizations, into lodges based on nationality consciousness, and into a great variety of other associations organized by immigrants for social, charitable, and cultural purposes, both in the local communities and at large in the United States.

"Immigrant Settlements and Social Organization in South Dakota", by John P. Johansen, So. Dak. Agr. Exp. Sta., Bull. No. 313, Brookings, June 1937. 63 pp.

A Social Survey in Pennsylvania

The church is the dominant form of organizational activity, in the Crooked Creek area of southwestern Pennsylvania, the location of a soil erosion control demonstration project in an area comprising about 187 square miles and 458 farms. The church and its auxiliary organizations reached more people than any other agency in the area;

and nine-tenths of the contacts reported were in religious groups. Nearly two-fifths of the people interviewed attended nearby movies on the average of 11 times a year. Nearly half of the persons had read one or more books during the previous year, the average being 9.4 per person.

Membership in organizations and leadership in them were greater among families in the higher income groups. Owners made many more social contacts than either part-time farmers or tenants. Age influenced both the extent and types of social activity, but in general, activity contacts of individuals decreased in number as persons grew older, this decrease being less noticeable in organizations than in contacts outside of organizations.

> "Social Life in the Crooked Creek Area", by H. J. Bonser, Pa. State College and Agr. Exp. Sta., Bull. No. 345, State College, Pa., May 1937.

Agricultural Experimentation and Research in the United States

The preface to this work states, "This is the third and final monograph in a series intended to give a comprehensive summary of the history of agricultural education, extension, and research in the United States..... This publication gives typical examples of the work of private individuals and organizations in laying the foundation for the establishment of public agencies for agricultural research. It tells how agencies, dealing exclusively or in large measure with agricultural research, developed from organizations in which such research was a minor feature, as in the case of geological surveys, the Patent Office, and the agricultural colleges. The early work of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State experiment stations has been described in some detail because accounts of the work at this stage are not readily available elsewhere. For the same reason, biographical information regarding the early workers has been included."

> "A History of Agricultural Experimentation and Research in the United States, 1607-1925" (including a history of the U. S. Department of Agriculture), by Alfred Charles True, Misc. Publ. No. 251, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, June 1937. pp. vi+321 (Bibliography with 327 citations).

Land Utilization in New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station has just completed an intensive study of land use, population, levels of living, public finance, and related problems in the back highlands portion of southern Grafton County in New Hampshire, covering an area of 190,000 acres which are now inhabited by 289 families. On the basis of their findings, the authors conclude: "Realignment of the people would result in saving in cost of public services. Reorganization of local government would lower its costs. Development of resources would provide possibilities of productive employment. Relation of resources to the local people would give the necessary employment to farm operators. A forest conservation program is suggested as preferable to public ownership in this area because the people could be more easily and satisfactorily related to the resources."

"Land Utilization in New Hampshire", by
Harry C. Woodworth, Max F. Abell, and John
C. Holmes, Bull. No. 298, Agr. Exp. Sta.,
Univ. of N. H., Durham, N. H., June 1937.
70 pp.

Recreation and the Use of Land

Ten percent of the total land area of Washington County, Rhode Island, is now in recreational use. Summer residences command the largest share of the recreational land, or 65 percent. Recreational clubs and public parks each account for 11 percent of the total. Nearly nine-tenths of the recreational land is privately owned. This land ranks with the most valuable land in the county and represents three-eighths of the total assessed valuation. The taxes on recreational real estate are sufficient to defray two-fifths of the expenses of town services and costs of local government; in one town 70 percent of the taxes levied are upon recreational real estate.

"Recreation and the Use of Land in Washington County", by W. R. Gordon and B. E. Gilbert, Bul. No. 258, Agr. Exp. Sta., R. I. State College, Kingston, R. I., May 1937. 83 pp.

Farm Family Living

The Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture has issued a summary, showing data which have been assembled from 80 scattered farm family living studies made in 31 States during the years 1920-35. The averages assembled refer to 485 groups and represent 18,893 families. The averages for groups have been classified by region, value of living, and by 11 items; also by money value of living adjusted to 1935 values. The items of family living considered are: food, clothing, household operation, transportation, recreation, furnishings and equipment, personal items, medical care, education, community welfare, and gifts. A bibliography and 31 tables are included.

"Farm Family Living, 1920-1935", by Medora M. Ward, U.S.D.A., Bur. of Home Econ., 1937. Mimeo. 56 pp.

A Study of Consumer Purchases

The Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is now releasing the preliminary results of a study of consumer purchases in selected areas of each of the 48 States. The material, which has already been collected by W.P.A. workers in the various States, under the direction of supervisors selected by the State Universities, is all being tabulated, studied, and analyzed in the Bureau of Home Economics in Washington. Twenty-three State areas have been studied to date, and among the preliminary releases are the following: Income, Occupation, and Size in: Logan, Utah; Griffin, Georgia; Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Astoria, Oregon; Greenfield, Massachusetts; Lincoln, Illinois; Thirteen Villages in Pennsylvania and Ohio; Among Negroes in Sumter, South Carolina; Fourteen Villages in Vermont and Massachusetts; Twelve California Villages; Fifteen Kansas and North Dakota Villages; and How Families in 24 Pacific Coast Villages Spend Their Money.

United States Employment Service and Agriculture

Nearly 15 percent of the persons registered with the United States Employment Service as looking for work reported agriculture as their chief work experience, according to a survey of the registrants in the active files in July 1936. A similar survey for December 1935 showed 16 percent of the total as coming from agriculture. Thus, approximately 1,000,000 persons from agriculture were registered as looking for jobs. During the two years ending June 30, 1936, there were nearly 1 million new applicants who gave agriculture as their occupation, and during the same period the Employment Service placed 375,000 persons in agricultural positions. How many persons from agriculture were placed in relief work or other nonagricultural employment is not stated. Details of these and other activities of the U.S. Employment Service are contained in two recent bulletins:

- "Who are the Job Seekers?" (Characteristics of 7,800,000 Employment Office Registrants in December 1935 and 6,600,000 Registrants in July 1936.) Govt. Prtg. Office 1937. 156 pp.
- "Filling Nine Million Jobs." (An Analysis of Registrations and Placements Made by the United States Employment Service July 1, 1934, to June 30, 1936.) Govt. Prtg. Office 1937. 149 pp.

The Growth of Urban Population

In the conclusion of his discussion of this topic, Dr. Leon E. Truesdell of the Bureau of the Census states: "Looking forward into the future, then, one might expect a rural population made up of the essential farming population, plus a supplementary population living in the open country and small villages perhaps nearly equal to the farm population. These two groups together might eventually constitute no more than 25 or 30 percent of the total population, which would leave room for an urban population amounting to 70 or 75 percent, or about one-fourth more than at present. Even at the rate of gain prevailing between 1900 and 1930, however, it would require three decades for the urban population to reach a point where it would constitute this fraction of the total; and its rate of growth may be much less rapid..... As a matter of coincidence, the usual date now forecast for the cessation of growth in the total population of the United States is 30 or 40 years in the future - 1970 or 1980; -- so we may perhaps find both a stable population and a stable urban-rural distribution at about the same time." "Growth of Urban Population in the United States of America", by Leon E. Truesdell,

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Wash., D. C., July 1937. 8 pp.

Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality, Neonatal Mortality

The Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor is making available a series of comparable tables, showing the trends of various vital indexes. Tables, by States, which have been compiled and which may be secured from the Children's Bureau include:

- IM-2 Trend of Infant Mortality in Urban and Rural Districts, 1915-1936.
- IM-3 Trend of Infant Mortality by Race, 1915-1935.
- IM-7 Trend of Infant Mortality in the United States and Certain Foreign Countries, 1915-1935.
- Trend of Neonatal Mortality, 1915-1935. NM-1
- Trend of Maternal Mortality in Urban and Rural MM-2Districts, 1915-1935.
- Trend of Maternal Mortality by Color, 1915-1935. MM-3
- Trend of Maternal Mortality in the United States and Certain Foreign Countries, 1915-1935.
- Trend of Birth Rates, 1915-1936. BS-1
- Trend of Birth Rates in the United States and BS-2 Certain Foreign Countries, 1915-1935.
- BS-3 Live Births in Urban and Rural Districts of each State by Person in Attendance, United States, 1935. (This bulletin gives complete data on the subject discussed on page 26 of the last issue of "Activities".)
- Live Births by Race and by Person in Attendance: United States and in States with 500 or more Negro Live Births: 1935.

Mortality Among Southern Negroes

Mortality from all causes for all ages declined between 1922 and 1932 by 2.5 percent among southern Negroes and by 7.7 percent among southern whites. Each age group under 30 among the Negroes and under 45 among whites showed a decline. For ages above these, the recorded mortality increased for both races, the percentage increase being greater for Negroes than for whites. The largest relative difference between Negro and white mortality occurs in the ages 15-54 years. In the Southern States, urban mortality is higher than rural for both races, but relatively higher among Negroes than among whites. Among northern Negroes, however, rural mortality is higher than urban for all ages; urban mortality exceeds rural only under 15 years and for the age group 45-64 years.

"Mortality Among Southern Negroes Since 1920", (With Comparative Data for Southern Whites and Northern Negroes), by Mary Gover, Public Health Bull. No. 235, U. S. Public Health Service, Wash., D. C., 1937. 52 pp.

EXTENSION REPORTS

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Planning a Recreation Program

Miss Ella Gardner, Recreation Specialist in the Agricultural Extension Service, prepared a handbook for the use of communities in planning and developing a program of leisure time activity. In this bulletin, she offers suggestions as to the proper procedure to employ in order to insure an efficient and fruitful organization of existing leadership and facilities, as well as a carefully planned development or expansion of activities for the future. The first step, which is a general survey meeting, is described, precautions noted, and suggestions made to assure its effectiveness. Various types of programs, specifications for equipment of playgrounds of different sizes, as well as a bibliography and list of interested national recreation agencies are also given.

"Development of a Leisure-Time Program in Small Cities and Towns", by Ella Gardner, Bureau Publ. No. 241, Children's Bureau, U. S. Dept. of Labor, Wash., D. C., 1937.

Pennsylvania Country Life Conference

Eighty leaders, representing all the major rural organizations in the State, met at the Training Camp, Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania, in late August for the second annual Pennsylvania Country Life Conference.

Objectives of the conference include the coordination of activities of organizations, the pooling of ideas and resources among rural leaders, the development of an appreciation of the real values inherent in country life, and the illumination of rural problems as well as the possibilities of their solution. Lecture, forum, book review, panel, and group discussion procedures were used.

DIVISIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Division Notes

Allen D. Edwards, who has been a member of the Social Research Section in the Resettlement Administration, has completed his study of the "Influence of Drought and Depression on a Rural Community." After October 1, Mr. Edwards joins the staff of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he will give full time to research work.

J. L. Charlton, who served as supervisor of the Tabulating Unit of the Social Research Section of the Resettlement Administration, has joined the Experiment Station staff at the University of Arkansas, where he is preparing studies on the educational system of the State.

Dr. Linden S. Dodson, Social Agricultural Economist in the Rural Resettlement Administration, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Sociology and Extension Sociologist at the University of Maryland, effective November 1st. Dr. Dodson's chief extension activities will be the development of public discussion groups in rural areas of Maryland. He will teach the course in rural sociology and will give approximately half of his time to social research.

Mr. Ara A. Asadorian, a recent graduate of Rhode Island State College, has been appointed Fellow in Sociology at the University of Maryland for the current school year. His research project will consist of an analysis of rural population trends in Maryland since 1880.

In "An Analysis of the Relief Population in Selected Areas of Maryland," by Theodore B. Manny and Harry G. Clowes, (University of Maryland, Social Research Studies, Mimeograph Circular No. 1, August 1937, 77 pages), a 100 percent sample of the relief population in seven Maryland Counties as of October 1934 furnishes the statistical basis for the study. The counties in most instances are ones in which relief burdens have been high and include two of Maryland's mountain counties, three on the Eastern Shore, one that has a large suburban element, and one in which agriculture and a variety of relatively small manufacturing units furnish most of the employment opportunities. Over 7,000 households containing 30,721 persons were reported in the schedules.

Two additional bulletins in the series of Graphic Summaries of American Agriculture, prepared under the supervision of O. E. Baker, have been released: "A Graphic Summary of the Value of Farm Property", by B. R. Stauber and M. M. Regan, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication No. 263; and "A Graphic Summary of Farm Machinery, Facilities, Roads, and Expenditures", by O. E. Baker, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication No. 264.

The three publications on the drought area previously published separately as WPA Research Bulletins, Series V, in cooperation with the Resettlement Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, have been bound together as one volume and a limited number is available. The three bulletins are: "Areas of Intense Drought Distress", by Francis D. Cronin and Howard W. Beers; "The People of the Drought States", by Conrad Taeuber and Carl C. Taylor; and "Relief and Rehabilitation in the Drought Area", by Irene Link.

A 12-page report, summarizing data on farm mortgage indebtedness in the United States has been published as a cooperative project by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Tables include: 1. Total number of farms, with the number of mortgaged farms and the amount of farm mortgage debt, by tenure of operator, by Geographic Division, 1935 and 1930. 2. Number of mortgaged farms with the amount of farm mortgage debt, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930. 3. Number of mortgaged farms with the amount of farm mortgage debt, by tenure of operator, by Divisions and States, 1935. 4. Number of farms operated by full owners, by mortgage status, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930. 5. Land in farms operated by full owners, by mortgage status, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930. 6. Value of farms operated by full owners, by mortgage status, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930. 7. Mortgage indebtedness of farms operated by full owners, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930. 7. Mortgage indebtedness of farms operated by full owners, by Divisions and States, 1935 and 1930.

In order to summarize the results of Federal-State cooperation in rural research, the Rural Section of the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, has decided to prepare a report covering Federal projects, State projects, and assistance with the W.P.A. statistical research program in which the State agricultural colleges have cooperated. The bulletin will have three parts: a general summary of the cooperative plan; State summaries; and a digest of bulletins. Dr. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the University of North Carolina, will have charge of the preparation of the report.

A summary of farm tenancy legislation in the States since January 1, 1937, prepared by Marshall Harris, is contained in the Land Policy Circular for July 1937.

State Notes

Dr. Lowry Nelson, formerly of the Resettlement Administration and more recently Director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, has taken up his new duties as Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, succeeding the late R. W. Murchie. Dr. Nelson has also been appointed a member of the Agricultural Committee of the International Labor Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, and plans to attend the meeting of this committee in Geneva on February 7th of next year.

Mr. Harold A. Gibbard, a graduate of McGill University, has been made a Research Assistant on the Experiment Station staff of the University of Michigan.

Miss Zetta Bankert, formerly Research Assistant at South Dakota State College, is continuing her graduate work in sociology this year at the University of Wisconsin while working as a part-time assistant in the department of rural sociology there.

Dr. Estal E. Sparlin of the University of Missouri, has been added to the Experiment Station staff to make special studies on taxation and assessments in the State.

John E. Wills, formerly with the University of Illinois, has been appointed Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Tennessee.

Howard J. Bonser, formerly with Penn State College, has been appointed Assistant Agricultural Economist and Rural Sociologist, University of Tennessee.

Benjamin D. Raskopf, who did graduate work at California and Tennessee, has been appointed Assistant Agricultural Economist and Rural Sociologist, University of Tennessee, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Ben T. Lanham, Jr., graduate of Clemson Agricultural College, has been appointed to a graduate assistantship in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Tennessee.

Ralph H. Gray, graduate of Oklahoma A. and M. College, has been appointed to a graduate assistantship in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Tennessee.

"Plantation Operations of Landlords and Tenants in Arkansas", by H. W. Blalock, was published in May of this year. This bulletin describes the plantation system in the State with special reference to the incomes and standards of living of the plantation workers. average net income of wage hands was \$203, share-croppers \$284, and

tenants \$425. A detailed study of the expenditures of tenant and cropper families showed that 70 percent of their incomes was spent for food, 13 percent for clothing, and 5 percent for health. Low incomes of tenants are due in part to the fact that tenant holdings are too small. They also do not have sufficient opportunity to raise products for home use.

"The Human Elements in Agriculture" was the general theme at the annual Institute of Rural Affairs, with a day given to discussion of population trends, an outgrowth of the population research being carried on in the Division of Rural Sociology of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in the last year in connection with its marginal population study. The chief points of emphasis in this study this summer have been the question of vertical social and economic circulation, or the tendency of those at the bottom of the ladder to climb up over several generations and those at the top to go down. Considerable emphasis has also been given to the Negro aspects of the problem of marginality.

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has prepared, for experimental use, a general farm rental agreement. Copies may be obtained by writing Professor C. H. Hamilton.

The program of the Department of Rural Sociology at Michigan State College for the coming year includes the following projects: The Administration of Public Relief in Selected Rural Counties of Michigan; A Study of the Effectiveness of Different Methods of Introducing New Agricultural Practices to the Dutch Farm Population of Michigan; and Sociological Factors Involved in the Methods and Results of Agricultural Extension Work in Two Michigan Counties.

Harold Templeton has been appointed assistant to the farm adviser in Champaign County, Illinois. Mr. Clark Loomis of Las Cruces, New Mexico, who received his Master's Degree in North Carolina under Professor Hamilton, and who has done some work at Louisiana State University, has accepted the half-time assistantship in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Illinois to work in research and extension for the coming year.

The current research program at the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station includes the following projects:

> A study of Farm Bureau memberships in Illinois, 1936. The effect of soil depletion on living standards (field work being carried on in three sample areas). A comparison of occupations and conditions of dwellings of relief and non-relief families in Pope County, Illinois, 1935.

The role of local farmers' organizations in increasing effectiveness of Extension work.

The relationship between land utilization and the migration of farm people.

Studies of the effectiveness of 4 H Club work - placing special emphasis upon the possibilities of personality training as distinguished from training in agricultural skills.

After a year's leave of absence, due to ill health, Professor W. A. Anderson has returned to active work at Cornell University.

Wisconsin sends news of the following plans for the coming year: Amy A. Gessner, former Extension specialist with the Department of Rural Sociology, is taking a year's leave of absence to do graduate work at Cornell. Her place is being filled by Mrs. Marie Kellogg, who has been engaged in social service work and dramatics in West Virginia. George W. Hill has been appointed assistant professor in Rural Sociology for the academic year 1937-38. Melvin Brooks from Towa State College has been awarded a fellowship in the Department of Rural Sociology.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Folk Art

This short article is written for the purpose of presenting an idea and is using two recently published books to implement that idea. Allen H. Eaton's "Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands", published by the Russell Sage Foundation and just off the press, and Marjorie Patten's "The Arts Workshop of Rural America", published by the Columbia University Press in April of this year, assemble the best information thus far available on what is happening in the folk arts of rural America.

Eaton's book tells the story of handicrafts in the southern Appalachians, but the author makes it clear that by handicrafts he means far more than the trinkets, baskets, chairs, and the like which the southern mountain people make and sell along the roadside. He includes in the word "handicraft" all those things which people make with their hands either for their own use or for that of others. Nor is the theme of his book that the sole value of handicrafts is their economic use. He speaks of the handicraft workers as cultural groups, a considerable portion of whose lives is bound up in the social, economic, educational, aesthetic, and therapeutic values of handicrafts. To him, the creative element in such work is of even greater value than the economic, and as he discusses the survival of old elements of folk culture in the mountains, the revival and promotion of handicraft work, and the tendency in many places for such work to disappear, he convinces the reader that it is not the loss of economic income, but the loss of folk art that is the issue at stake.

There are many of us who are honestly puzzled over the issues involved in the mechanization and commercialization of rural life. We recognize that it is only by bringing the gifts of the outside world to relatively isolated people that their material standards of living, in terms of economic goods and even health facilities and schooling, can be guaranteed to them. At the same time, we are inclined to the belief that a great deal is lost when the art of hand-craftmanship is lost; this belief is heightened by Mr. Eaton's descriptions of the pride, zest, and creative experience which numerous groups of craftsmen feel in their work.

Miss Patten's book is primarily a report on the arts being promoted by the colleges and universities of the country. She does not claim to make a complete survey of all such work, but she does select for description and discussion such outstanding programs as the dramatic, choral, and operatic activities of the Agricultural Extention Service, the work of the Carolina Playmakers of the University of North Carolina, some annual festivals promoted by various agencies in a number of States, the art exhibits of rural galleries in several sections of the country, and she gives one chapter to a discussion of the topic which constitutes the theme of Mr. Eaton's book.

To the reader who is interested in the type of activities discussed above, and to the reader who has known little about such activities but is anxious to learn something concerning them, these two books will make outstanding contributions. And I cannot refrain from raising the issue of who, if not the Rural Sociologist, is going to take the leadership in developing interest in the promotion of folk art in rural America.

Carl C. Taylor

Population Distribution in Colonial America

In the period of 167 years elapsing between the settlement of Jamestown in 1608 and the outbreak of the Revolution, the population of the American Colonies grew to 2,507,180, exclusive of Indians; when the first Federal Census was taken in 1790, the figure was 3,699,525. Of the first mentioned number about 533,500 were Negroes. Perhaps 200,000 were of German or other alien stock, and the remainder was British. Of the total, 1,298,763 persons, including 57,000 Negroes, lived north of the Mason and Dixon Line. Virginia was the most populous Province, Rhode Island and Massachusetts were most densely populated. New York was the largest city with about 22,000; Philadelphia had 21,767; Boston, about 16,000; and Charleston had 14,000.

"Population Distribution in Colonial America", by Stella Sutherland, Columbia Univ. Press, New York, 1936, xxxii+353 pp.

Child Labor in Agriculture

"The greatest single child-employing occupation in the United States is agriculture. This is true today. It has always been true. No less than half a million children 10 to 15 years of age are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the total is nearly a million when we include the boys and girls of 16 and 17." Children constitute almost 10 percent of all persons gainfully occupied in agriculture, whereas in nonagricultural pursuits child workers constitute but 3 percent of the total, according to a study of child workers in America which was published recently.

The child workers in agriculture who are most frequently mentioned are the children employed on commercial crops away from home, sometimes separated from their families, more often accompanying them. Of the total half million child farm workers 15 and under, about one hundred thousand work for wages for an employer. The other four hundred thousand or more are known to the Census as "unpaid family workers".

"As a rule, not as an exception, children in agriculture are allowed to work unlimited hours, hours that would be long even for a grown man,—nine, ten, even eleven and twelve hours a day during rush seasons; the conditions of their work are demonstrably and typically deplorable; the school laws are frequently adjusted to meet the demands of their labor, and the enforcement of such school laws as do control them is frequently ignored on their behalf."

Concerning the children who work on the home farm, the authors come to the conclusion that the bulk of them are not children of independent owners, but of tenants and croppers in the Cotton Belt of the South: "They should in fact be classed as employed in commercial agriculture, and not workers on the home farm at all...... (they) are in fact working as farm laborers for the land owners."

"Child Workers in America", by Katharine
DuPre Lumpkin and Dorothy Wolff Douglas.
Robert M. McBride, New York, 1937, xii+321 pp.
(Chapters V and VI deal with agriculture.)

Technological Trends in Agriculture

The productivity of the average worker in agriculture has been growing at an increasing rate during the last 100 years. Contributions have come from many sources, invention, improvement and use of machinery and power, as well as through the introduction, adaptation, and improvement of plants and livestock. There has also been increased ability to meet the challenge of insects, pests, and diseases; increase in knowledge relating to the use and replenishment of soils; and improvement in managerial and marketing techniques. In 1787, the surplus food produced

by 19 farmers went to feed one city person, but in recent average years 19 people on farms have produced enough food for 56 nonfarm people, plus 10 living abroad.

Low incomes appear to be the most important limiting factor in accounting for the large number of farm families without telephones, automobiles, radios, electricity, and household labor-saving equipment. But many farms relatively well equipped with modern production tools are without running water, bathrooms, electric lights, and other comforts and conveniences. "It is frequently said that overemphasis has been placed on production efficiency by farmers generally; that they have passed on their gains too readily as a result of intense competition; and that they have tended to overcapitalize their land, thus limiting their ability to acquire conveniences contributing to raising living standards."

These are some of the factors related to agriculture which are pointed out by the report of the Subcommittee on Technology to the National Resources Committee, which points attention to the need for planning to meet the new situations caused by technological advance. Part One of this report deals with the Social Aspects of Technology, discussing prediction of inventions, their social effects, resistance to adoption of technological inventions and unemployment, and increasing productivity.

"Technological Trends and National Policy - Including the Social Implication of New Inventions." National Resources Committee, Washington, D. C., 1937. 388 pp.

Our Cities

"A section for urban research should be set up in some suitable Federal agency which should perform for urban communities functions comparable to those now performed for rural communities by the Department of Agriculture. A clearing house of urban information should be created in the Bureau of the Census which would serve as a central depository and clearing house of all information about urban communities collected by all Governmental agencies on all levels and by authoritative private organizations."

These are among the recommendations made in the report by the Urbanism Committee of the National Resources Committee, dealing with "The Role of the Urban Community in the National Economy". This report, the first major national study of cities in the United States, attempts a systematic study of problems of urban living, similar to that done by the Country Life Commission in 1969. The discussion is in three parts: The Facts About Urban America; The Process of Urbanization -

Underlying Forces and Emerging Trends; and The Problems of Urban America. Rural-urban differences are stressed throughout.

"Our Cities - Their Role in the National Economy", Report of the Urbanism Committee to the National Resources Committee, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1937, 87 pp.

Population Pressure in Japan

Within the next 25 years the population of Japan, which is now about 65,000,000, is expected to increase to somewhere between 80,000,000 and 90,000,000. It will therefore be necessary for Japan to provide annually about half a million new positions in her economic structure. Further absorption of population in agriculture or in rural communities, which now contain nearly one-half of the total population, is not likely in view of the serious economic difficulties under which Japanese agriculture is operating. Moreover, the tendency toward land consolidation and the general improvement of agricultural methods tend to encourage the city-ward movement of the population.

Beginning at an unusually low level, the birth rate has gradually risen since 1868. About 1900, Japan's rising birth rate exceeded the declining rate of Western industrialized nations. The death rate has also risen steadily, thus partly offsetting the increase in the birth rate. In 1935, the birth rate was 31.6 and the death rate 16.8, thus the rate of natural increase was 14.8 per 1,000 of the population. (Similar rates in the United States were 16.9, 10.9, and 6.0 respectively.) Since the post-War period the trend of refined birth and death rates has been downward. But the present predominance of the minor age groups, implying a large proportion of future potential mothers, may partially counterbalance the decline in reproduction rates expected as a result of industrialization and urbanization. Emigration has not in the past had any appreciable effects on population growth.

Dr. Ishii, the author of the study from which the statements above are taken, points out that Japan's food problem is not intrinsically a problem of merely feeding the increasing millions, but rather resolves itself into questions of the relationship between the rural and urban districts, and between Japan proper and her colonies. A question of paramount importance is, "How can the cost of food production in the nation be reduced to the level of world costs or at least to the level of costs in Japan's colonies?"

"Population Pressure and Economic Life in Japan", by Ryoichi Ishii, London, P. S. King & Son, 1937. xx+259 pp.

Selective Migration From a German Village

The more gifted persons in a small German village moved to other areas in larger proportions than the less gifted, according to a study of three generations of village residents. The level of ability was measured by school achievement which was found to be closely correlated with occupational success. Migrants generally improved their social and economic status in the new environment. The author reports that this selection of the most capable has tended to reduce the level of ability of those who remained in the villages and especially of those engaged in agriculture. It was not possible, however, to find any effect of migration upon the physical characteristics of village resident.

Other scattered German studies have given some support to these findings. American studies, however, have not generally found such a detrimental effect of migration.

The Social and Economic Structure of Agricultural Systems

The International Conference of Agricultural Economists, at its meeting in 1934, voted to stimulate the preparation of comprehensive descriptions of the geographic social and economic structure of the agricultural systems of each of the member countries. It was planned to secure a better understanding of the unique character of each nation and its agriculture, and of the social-economic problems, both national and international. In order to secure comparability, a comprehensive outline was prepared. Professor Max Sering of the University of Berlin, Germany, has general supervision of the work.

Three volumes in the proposed series are now available, those for Bulgaria, Germany, Switzerland, and Jugoslavia. Members of the Division Staff are collaborating in the preparation of the volume for the United States.

"Die sozialokonomische Struktur der bulgarischen Landwirtschaft", Janaki St. Molloff., ed. Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, 1936. x+196 pp.

"Grundzuge der schweizerischen Agrarverfassung", by Oskar Howald and Hans Brugger, Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, 1936. 58 pp.

"Die sozialokonomische Struktur der jugoslawischen Landwirtschaft", by Otto von Franges, Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin, 1937. x+288 pp.

New Bibliographies

The Library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued a selected list of references entitled, "Farm Tenancy in the United States, 1918-1936". This is Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 70, superseding an earlier bibliography for the period 1925-1935. The present bibliography is in three sections: (1) references of a general nature, (2) references arranged by geographical divisions of the United States, and (3) references arranged by States. One thousand seventy titles are included and annotated and there is an index of 81 pages.

A bibliography of the State Agricultural College and Experiment Station Publications on books and reading is included in the July issue of Agricultural Library Notes, published by the United States Department of Agriculture Library. Extension and Experiment Station Publications are given and 67 titles are listed.

Other new bibliographies which may be of interest to readers of "Activities" are:

> "Rural Zoning." A list of references compiled by Louise O. Bercaw, Bur. of Agr. Econ. Lib., U.S.D.A., Wash., D. C., June 30, 1937.

"Recreation." A Selected Bibliography with Annotations, Technical Series Recreation Cir. No. 2, Recreation Div., Works Progress Adm., Wash., D. C., June 14, 1937.

"Crop and Livestock Insurance," by Esther M. Colvin (supplementary references to A. E. Bibl. No. 67), Bur. of Agr. Econ. Lib., U.S.D.A., Wash., D. C., July 6, 1937.

"Large Scale and Corporation Farming: A Selected List of References," by Esther M. Colvin, Agr. Econ. Bibl. No. 69, Bur. of Agr. Econ. Lib., U.S.D.A., Wash., D. C., April 1937.

Census of Florida

The Sixth Census of the State of Florida, taken as of April 8, 1935, has been published by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Population data are given for minor civil divisions, and by race and sex. Persons of voting age are tabulated, and there is an age grouping by county and by race and sex according to the following age classes: 5 years or less, 6 - 12, 13 - 20, 21 - 59, 60 - 64, and 65 years and over. A table showing State of birth by county of present residence Comparative data from earlier State Censuses and is also included. the U. S. Census are also given.

Chinese Rice Farmers in Hawaii

A bulletin by this title, prepared by John Wesley Coulter and Chee Kwon Chun of the University of Hawaii, describes the growth and decline of rice farming by Chinese in Hawaii. This is largely an historical account, for rice farming in Hawaii in 1930 included only about a tenth of the acreage which it had occupied about 20 years previously. Detailed descriptions of agricultural operations and of Chinese social and religious institutions are included. Particular emphasis is placed upon the customs, festivals, and observances as related to the different phases of agricultural work. The layout of a rice plantation is described, as are also the various operations connected with raising a crop and threshing it. (University of Hawaii Research Fublications, No. 16, March 1937. 72 pp.)

Family Budgets of Six Tenant Farmers in India

The Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab, India, has been carrying on a study of family budgets of six tenant farmers in a relatively prosperous part of the Province, the Canal Colony of Lyallpur. Budgets for three years have now been published, namely, 1932-33, 1933-34, and 1934-35. Among these six families in 1934-35, 80 percent of the food consumed was furnished by the farm, and only 20 percent was purchased. Nine percent of the clothing expense was furnished by the farm. Fifty-seven percent of the total family living, excluding house rent, is furnished by the farm. Food expenditures amount to 66 percent of the total, clothing requires 19 percent. Travelling is the third most important item, accounting for 4 percent of the expenditures. The present report for the first time shows a credit balance for these families; during the two previous years they had incurred deficits.

"Family Budgets, 1934-35, of Six Tenant-Cultivators in the Lyallpur District", by Labh Singh and Ajaib Singh, the Board of Economic Inquiry, Publ. No. 50, Punjab, 1937. 50 pp.

Report on Migratory Workers

The Secretary of Labor has recently submitted a report on the conditions and needs of the workers who migrate across State lines. This report was in response to a Senate resolution adopted early in 1936. The complete report is on file in the office of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. A summary may be found in the Monthly Labor Review for July 1937.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS Reviewed and Received

Federal

"An Analysis of Methods and Criteria Used in Selecting Families for Colonization Projects", by John B. Holt, Soc. Res. Rpt. No. 1, Farm Security Adm. and Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Wash. D. C., Sept. 1937, 54 pp.

"Tenure of New Agricultural Holdings in Several European Countries", by Erich Kraemer, Soc. Res. Rpt. No. 2, Farm Security Adm. and Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Wash., D. C., Sept. 1937, 54 pp.

"Survey of Agricultural Labor Conditions in Wayne County, Pennsylvania", by Tom Vasey and J. C. Folsom, Farm Security Adm. and Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Wash., D. C., Sept. 1937.

"Who Are the Job Seekers?" (Characteristics of 7,800,000 Employment Office Registrants in December 1935, and 6,600,000 Registrants in July 1936.) Govt. Printing Office, Wash., D. C., 1937, 156 pp.

"Filling Nine Million Jobs", (An Analysis of Registrations and Placements Made by the U. S. Employment Service July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1936.) Govt. Printing Office, Wash., D. C., 1937, 149 pp.

"Social Problems of the Drought Area", (Bulletins Nos. 1, 2, and 3), bound volume, W.P.A., Govt. Printing Office, 1937, Series V.

"Current Statistics of Relief in Rural and Town Areas for April-May 1937, and for the Years 1932-1936", W.P.A., Vol. 2, No. 5, Wash., D. C., July 1937.

"Report on Progress of the Works Program", W.P.A., Wash., D. C., June 1937.

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"Percent of All Farm Land Operated by Tenants", by E. L. Kirkpatrick, Res. Div. of the Resettlement Adm., Region II, Madison, Wis., July 1937.

"Young People and Agricultural Workers with Repsect to Total Population and the Unemployment Situation", Res. Div. of the Resettlement Adm., Region II, Madison, Wis., July 1937.

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"Organization and Operating Problems of Nebraska Cooperative Creameries", Bull. No. 11, Farm Credit Adm., Wash., D. C., March 1937.

"Cooperative Organization of Iowa Farmers' Creameries", by Frank Robotka and Gordon C. Laughlin, Bull. No. 14, Farm Credit Adm., Wash., D. C., April 1937.

"Milk Cooperatives in Four Ohio Markets", Bull. No. 16, Farm Credit Adm., Wash., D. C., April 1937.

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"Young Men in Farming", Vocational Education Bull. No. 188, Agriculture Series No. 49, Office of Education, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Wash., D. C., 1936.

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"Our Cities - Their Role in the National Economy", Report of the Urbanism Committee to the National Resources Committee, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash., D. C., June 1937, 87 pp.

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"Mortality Among Southern Negroes Since 1920", by Mary Gover, Public Health Bull. No. 235, U. S. Public Health Service, Wash., D. C., 1937, 52 pp.

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"Land Utilization in New Hampshire", by Harry C. Woodworth, Max Abell, and John C. Holmes, Bull. No. 298, N. H. Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of N. H., Durham, N. H., June 1937, 70 pp.

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